

NEWS ROUNDUP

Bishop begs IRA to end the killing

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor, Dr Cahal Daly, yesterday appealed to IRA leaders to end the killing in Northern Ireland.

Speaking at the Requiem Mass in Belfast for Peter Dolan, aged 25, one of two men shot by 'loyalists' on Monday, he said: "For the love of God, for the love of Ireland and for the sake particularly of the Catholic community, for the good of the national community whom you call your own people, bring this killing to an end."

His appeal came after the attempt by IRA terrorists to murder a reserve constable in the RUC on the steps of a church in Lurgan, Co Armagh, on Tuesday night.

A man was being questioned by the RUC yesterday after bombs and bomb making equipment were seized during a search of a house in Portadown, Co Armagh.

Blinded girl's £5,000

A girl blinded by *toxocara canis*, a rare disease carried in dog excrement, is to receive compensation after a three-year legal battle in what is thought to be the first case in Britain. Blackpool Council yesterday agreed to pay £5,000 to Rachel Hall, aged seven, of Lune Grove, Blackpool, whose parents claim her blindness was the result of playing in a local park where a worm-infested dog had excreted. The council denied liability, but made the offer which was accepted.

Aids man's term cut

Huw Mark Rees, aged 30, of Wolverhampton, a prisoner suffering from Aids, had his seven-year sentence for robbery cut "in mercy" to four years by the Court of Appeal in London yesterday. Mr Justice French said: "It is not impossible that the occurrence of prisoners suffering from the Aids virus may be of such frequency that special sentencing measures may have to be introduced."

Prosecution threat

Mrs Mary Whitehouse said she may be willing to bring a private prosecution for blasphemy against a new film about the life of Christ that depicts him on the cross fantasizing about sex. *The Last Temptation of Christ*, directed by Mr Martin Scorsese, opens in the United States tomorrow. It is due for release in Britain this autumn. Mrs Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, has written to Mr James Ferman, secretary of the British Board of Film Censors, asking him not to grant the film a certificate.

Keays cash tripled

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, has agreed to increase by threefold maintenance payments for his daughter, Flora Keays, aged four. Mr Parkinson will now pay £10,000 a year for Flora, who is recovering from a brain operation, instead of the £3,000 agreed in a court order granted when she was born. Magistrates agreed to the new terms on the grounds that the child's expenses had "substantially increased". Flora's mother, Miss Sara Keays, a former secretary of Mr Parkinson, sought an application to vary the maintenance order under the Affiliation Proceedings Act.

Owen 'wept for SDP'

Dr David Owen has admitted that he "sobbed his heart out" when SDP members voted for merger with the Liberals at its party conference in Portsmouth a year ago. In an interview with Esther Rantzen, to be screened on BBC television tonight, Dr Owen recalls how he wept "uncontrollably" when his plea as leader for the SDP to remain independent was rejected. "I really sobbed my heart out when the SDP was broken up. My public persona was one of total control but internally I was totally wrought up."

Chess leader loses

By Harry Golombek

Round nine of the Kleinwort Benson British Chess Championships at Blackpool brought a heavy defeat yesterday for the leader, Jonathan Mestel, by Glenn Flear.

Mestel weakened his king's position in trying to create early counter-attacking chances as black and eventually lost three pawns.

Results, Round 9: G Flear 1, J

Mestel 0; N Murshed 1, A Kosten 0; J Gallagher ½, S Bell ½; J Cooper 1, K Arkell 0; V Anand 1, P Morris 0; N Carr ½, G Morrison ½; A Muir 0, D King 1; G Crawley 1, N Carton 0; P Rossiter 1, D Knox 0; P Giulian ½, A Dunnington ½; J Fraser-Mitchell ½, J Poulton ½.

Adjudged games Round 8: Morwani 1, Hempson 0; Bell 0, Watson 1; Kwiatkowski 0, Belfin 1; Lyell 1, Crawley 0.

Leading scores: Flear and Mestel 7; Pigott and Hogson 6.

Sell-off 'will need £350m from Government'

Shorts pins hope on Boeing deal

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

Boeing, the giant American aerospace company, is being wooed to take over Short Brothers, the state-owned company in Belfast.

Shorts, which the Government wants to see in the private sector as soon as possible, believes that Boeing, based in Seattle, could be the only chance of ensuring a healthy future for the company as a private business. That, Shorts considers, is provided the Government is first persuaded to provide around £350 million to write off existing debts and inject sufficient equity cash into it.

The board of Shorts would have liked to delay privatization for three years while it restructured the company and built on its growing reputation for providing high-quality parts for airlines as well as its own short-range propeller driven aircraft and Blowpipe ground to air missiles. It

was taken back by the Government's announcement last month that the company would be sold off as soon as possible and that it could even be broken up into separate units. Angry officials from Shorts immediately confronted the Government and eventually forced a change of mind, allowing Shorts executives to arrange the sale, keeping the company as a single entity.

The company's officials had been criticized by workers afraid that splitting the company, which employs 8,000 people, could lead to huge job losses.

A suitable buyer now has to be found quickly. Boeing is seen as the ideal choice because Shorts has been involved with it since 1972 and won consistent praise for the landing gear doors it produced for the 747; flaps for the 757; the rudder of the 737; and engine nacelles for both the 747 and the 757, in a series of contracts worth

more than £25 million a year. Shorts also believes that a Boeing purchase would avoid scrutiny by the Competition Directorate of the EEC. That body would be bound to act if any possible tie-up with a European manufacturer, such as British Aerospace, were contemplated. If, however, the Government did agree to a substantial debt write-off, the EEC would still want to study the terms of the arrangement and could even veto the proposed cash injection if it felt it was likely to give Shorts an unfair financial advantage over competitors in Europe.

For the moment, however, Boeing remains adamant that it is "not interested" in acquiring the company and if it is to be persuaded the Government will almost certainly have to agree to a very large "dowry" to persuade the American company to invest in Northern Ireland.

Shorts will probably show a trading

loss of about £40 million in the present financial year, which will include around £25 million interest payments on accumulated debts of more than £250 million.

Shorts are convinced that much of their present problems stem from a lack of Government interest or investment over many years.

The Government's unexpected disclosure shock revelation three weeks ago that they might be prepared to see the company split up before it was sold led to an immediate crisis of confidence among potential customers and at least one major order, for 12 Tucano trainers from the African air force, was suddenly delayed.

Now that the Government has given an assurance that Shorts will be sold as one company, the Belfast firm believes it can re-establish confidence not only with its customers but with the workforce, which had threatened to mount a sit-in.

AEU is set for second plant deal

By Roland Ridd

The engineering union yesterday disclosed that it was confident of winning a second single-union deal with a canning plant on the same site as the proposed Coca-Cola and Schweppes plant which is threatened with strike action.

The move will infuriate the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU), which has already threatened to take industrial action at Coca-Cola and Schweppes' 20 depots and six factories after losing a "beauty-contest" for a single-union deal in April.

Although the TGWU represents 90 per cent of Coca-Cola workers, its rival, the Amalgamated Engineering Union (AEU), won the single-union deal at the company's new £20 million bottling plant in Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

Last night Coca-Cola and the transport union were trying to find a formula to avert a nationwide strike. The negotiations are expected to continue today.

Mr Bill Jordan, AEU president, yesterday said his union was hoping to win its second single-union deal, despite the opposition of the transport union. The engineering union is negotiating with Nacanco Ltd, a manufacturing plant which is building a canning plant alongside the Coca-Cola and Schweppes factory.

Mr Ian Higgins, Nacanco personnel director, yesterday confirmed that the company had been approached by different unions to represent the workforce.

Mr Higgins, who would not be drawn on details, said: "It would be fair to say that the AEU is the predominant union in our organization."

AEU officials fear a TGWU strike could jeopardize the Coca-Cola plant, which will provide 500 jobs.

Princes call on the new princess



By Ruth Gledhill

The Duke of York meeting Prince Henry (left) and Prince William as they arrived at the Portland Hospital, west London, yesterday to visit their two-day-old cousin for the first time. The young princes were accompanied by their mother, the Princess of Wales, a close friend of the Duchess of York who is recovering after giving birth on Monday. Major Ronald Ferguson, father of the Duchess, arrived to see his granddaughter for the first time as the Princess

of Wales and her two sons were leaving the hospital. The Duke of York enthusiastically embraced the Princess of Wales, kissing both her and her two sons on the cheeks as they arrived. Prince William, carrying a box of chocolates, waved happily at photographers and a cheering crowd of nearly 100 members of the public before the royal party entered the hospital. The Princess of Wales, dressed casually in a white blouse, beige knee-length skirt and low-heeled white shoes, looked relaxed and eager to see

the latest addition to the Royal Family. Later, Lord Spencer, father of the Princess of Wales, entered the gentle controversy over what name should be given to the new baby. He said: "I think she should be called Octavia. It was the eighth of the eighth, '88. But I don't suppose they will." Lord Spencer was speaking at Broadcasting House after finishing the third of three programmes he is making for BBC Radio 2 as stand-in presenter of *Your Hundred Best Tunes*. (Photograph: James Morgan)

Paris to London air fare to be cut

By Our Air Correspondent

Air Europe won a six-month battle with France last night when it was granted permission to provide cut-price fares between London and Paris.

The airline will immediately cut the price of its basic single fare between Gatwick airport, West Sussex, and Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport to £69, against the £85 charged by British Airways and Air France.

In October, when the airline's fleet of 737 jets has been refurbished to include a business class, it will cut the price of a single business class ticket from £105 to £92.

The cheaper Air Europe fares are likely to be copied by other airlines.

Mr Harry Goodman, chairman of International Leisure Group of which Air Europe is a subsidiary, introduced the cut-price flights between London and Paris after being given the go-ahead by the Civil Aviation Authority in February.

He said that he would be using the new fare as a challenge to Europe to accept the lower air fares agreed by EEC members last year.

However, as soon as operations began, the French said his aircraft would be refused permission to land unless he charged the full "approved" fare.

Since then the twice daily flights have been operating at a profit, but charging the same fare as British Airways and Air France.

Now he has finally won permission to cut fares, but the French have still refused to allow the fare to fall as low as £59 — except for a brief winter period when passengers will have to specify their date of return and stay for at least two nights.

Flying in and out of the country was relatively easy yesterday.

FLIGHTCHECK



London, Birmingham, Manchester, Bristol, Cardiff: No problems.

Aberdeen: Flights to Shetland affected by fog.

Gatwick: "Pretty good", although all departures are subject to delays of up to two hours.

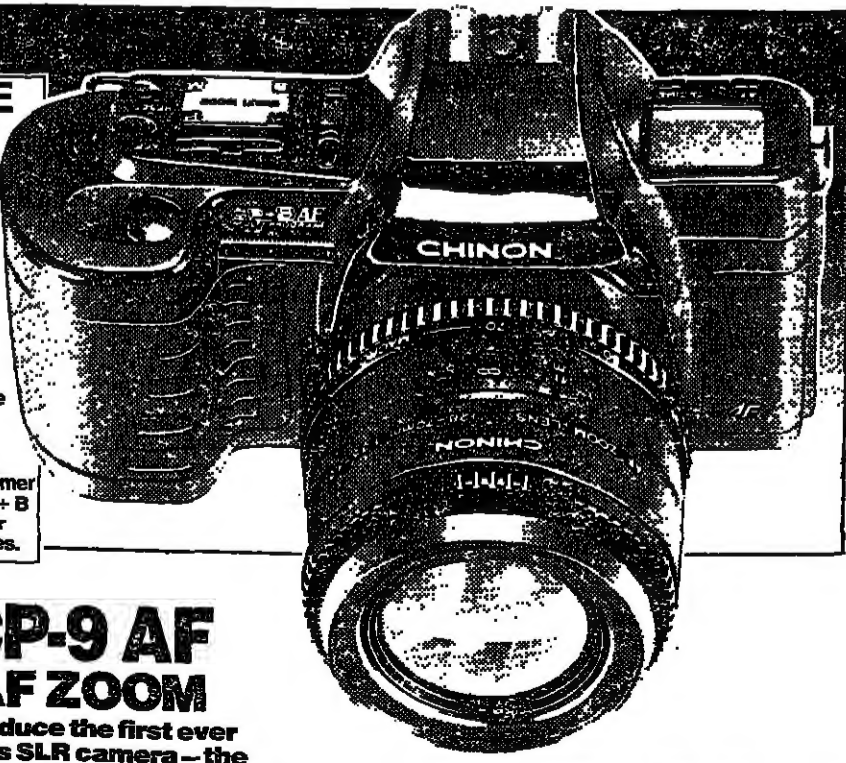
Glasgow: An Air UK scheduled flight from Amsterdam was nearly four hours late at 12.40pm, due to a ground handlers' dispute at Schiphol Airport. An Avionex departure to Dubrovnik was an hour and 20 minutes late, leaving at 12.50pm.

Heathrow: Sunday Airways flight from Khartoum via Rome, scheduled to leave at 4.55pm on Tuesday is not now expected to arrive until Friday due to flooding in Sudan. British Airways flights to Khartoum are still on schedule.

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Reactor will provide cheapest UK power

CEGB argues case for Hinkley plant

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The third nuclear power station to be built at Hinkley Point, Somerset, and the second in Britain to be based on the American type of pressurized water reactor, is intended to operate for 40 years, the Central Electricity Generating Board says.

The new station will cost £1,470 million and provide a cheaper source of electrical power — 2.2p a unit — than any other form of fuel.

Hinkley Point C, the board said in a "statement of case" published yesterday, would be a replica of the Sizewell B design, although some changes would be introduced to reflect differences between the two sites.

The document gives full details of the submissions the board proposes to make at the public inquiry which opens on October 4.

It says the safety of a pressurized water reactor (PWR) at Hinkley Point will

be acceptable when assessed against the stringent standards of the National Radiological Protection Board, and adds that it intends to build at least two more stations as well as Hinkley Point C.

Later this year it will apply to build a PWR station at Wylfa, in Anglesey, and next year for a further PWR station at Dungeness, Kent; Winfrith, Dorset; Trawsfynydd, north Wales; or Druridge Bay, Northumberland.

If approved, the stations will be ready in 1998, 1999 and 2000.

In its argument for Hinkley C, the board says capacity planned for the 1990s will have to be supplemented with a new fossil fuel plant to help meet a rising demand for electricity.

"The requirement for new generation by 2000 is anticipated to be in excess of what these stations could provide."

Moreover, a significant

capacity shortfall is also expected to arise before any of these stations could be contributing power. As a consequence, it is likely that some new fossil fuel generating plant will also be built.

The board has already applied for coal-fired stations at Fawley, Hampshire, and at West Burton, Nottinghamshire, and intends to do so for a coal-fired station at Kingsnorth, Kent.

Both the board and potential private generators anticipating opportunities with the privatization of electricity supply, are also considering other options such as combined cycle gas turbines.

Privatization proposals for the electricity supply industry will provide for a minimum of at least 20 per cent of generation from nuclear and other non-fossil sources by 2000.

The "statement of case" compares Hinkley Point C with renewable sources, the

advanced gas-cooled reactor, imports from non-fossil sources and other possible sites for PWR stations and concludes that none is preferred to a PWR at Hinkley Point.

"However, given the timing of privatization, it is likely that if Hinkley Point C is approved, the decision on whether to build the station will be taken by the larger of the CEGB's two successor generating companies."

"This company will inherit the board's existing nuclear stations and its substantial nuclear resources. Standards of safety will continue to be vigorously enforced."

Buying The Times overseas: Canada \$2.75; Germany 4.50; France 12.00; Ireland 12.00; Italy 12.00; Japan 12.00; New Zealand 12.00; Norway 12.00; Sweden 12.00; Switzerland 12.00; USA \$2.00.

Race for first grouse of the Twelfth

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Tomorrow morning the moors of Britain will resound to the noise of gunfire as the Glorious Twelfth marks the start of the grouse shooting season, to be followed by several distinctly uncomfortable months for game birds of various kinds and the gripes of those who, for whatever motive, oppose the annual slaughter of up to half a million grouse.

As part of the traditional hallyhoo the Mountbatten Hotel, in the West End of London, is hoping to have the earliest newly killed bird on display in London by 11.30 am. Its operation just might, but probably will not, be hindered by the Hunt Saboteurs' Association, which is planning a series of unspecified but "lawful and non-violent" strikes against the shooters.

According to the Game Conservancy Council, prospects present a mixed picture. In England, on the western side of the Pennines, they look generally good and on one moor the grouse population is the highest for 20 years. But on the

eastern side the position is described as "not so rosy". Grouse there have been attacked by the strongyle worm, a parasite which causes debility and may weaken hen birds to the point where they are unable to hatch their eggs.

In Scotland prospects are generally fairly good but on some moors, because of a shortage of gamekeepers, grouse have suffered from the attacks of predators, mainly foxes and crows. The conservancy council is stressing the need for a long-term management programme to rejuvenate heather growth and control parasites.

On the North Yorkshire moors the national park authority has recently begun an experimental programme of converting grassland back to heather. The first beneficiaries, if it succeeded, would be grouse, since they only eat heather.

Just how many people will be blasting away tomorrow is a matter for speculation. Many experienced guns regard the

Twelfth as a bit of "hype" and, especially after a wet summer, prefer to reserve their efforts until later in the season when the birds will be stronger.

For the League Against Cruel Sports and its allies, the Twelfth is anything but glorious. Yesterday it was being Britain's leading conservation societies, some of whose Royal patrons will be joining in the slaughter, "for ignoring individual wild birds and animals systematically exterminated by gamekeepers in the interests of Britain's snobbiest bloodsport."

"No doubt the media will once again be obsessed with the ridiculous race to get the first pathetic, lead-peppered corpse on to a restaurant table."

No doubt they will. But the owners of the Mountbatten Hotel, who plan to use a helicopter to beat the Savoy in the dash, should be aware that no self-respecting gourmet would dream of ordering grouse until it had been hung for several days.

Paris to London air fare to be cut

By Our Air Correspondent

Air Europe won a circumstantial case with France last night when it was granted permission to provide cut-price fares between London and Paris.

The airline will immediately cut the price of its long-haul flights between London and Paris to £150, a 20 per cent discount on the current £180. The airline also won a circumstantial case with France last night when it was granted permission to provide cut-price fares between London and Paris.

Mr Harry Goodman, chairman of International Lease Finance, said the airline's new fares would be a "major step" in the fight against the "unfair" subsidies given to the French airline Air France.

He said that he would be using the new fare as a challenge to Europe to accept the lower fares, agreed by EEC members last year.

However, as soon as operations began, the French and his aircraft would be charged the full "approved" fare.

Since then the price of flights has been operating at a profit, but carrying the same fare as British Airways and Air France.

Now he said finally we permit the cut fare, he said, the airline will be able to allow the fare to fall to £150 - a 20 per cent discount on the current £180.

Flights will have to be operated by a two-engine aircraft, and the country was required to be a member of the EEC.

FLIGHTCHECK

London, Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Exeter, Glasgow, Newcastle, Norwich, Southampton, Swansea, Tyneside, York.

Alfred, the airline's spokesman, said the airline would be able to offer the cut fare on all its flights to and from London.

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Guard killed, helper injured fighting off bankroll knifemen

By Craig Seton

A Securicor guard was stabbed to death during an attempted robbery outside a bank in Birmingham yesterday, and a window cleaner who went to his aid was critically injured.

Mr John Worwood, aged 44, fatally wounded fighting off two would-be robbers, managed in spite of his injuries to stagger to his vehicle and place a cash box containing almost £5,000 into a steel security hatch at the rear. He then collapsed in a pool of blood on the front seat as horrified shoppers looked on.

Last night Securicor offered a £25,000 reward for information leading to the prosecution and conviction of the two killers, as detectives praised the courage of Mr Worwood and Mr Gerald Hall, aged 32, the window cleaner who ran to his help.

Mr Hall was stabbed in the stomach as he tried to tackle the would-be robbers, both black, outside Barclays Bank in High Street, Birmingham.

He underwent emergency surgery at Birmingham Accident Hospital, where his condition was later described as critical but stable.

Police said both men had been stabbed with a 10in blade.

A team of 60 police officers launched a search for the two attackers, who fled empty-handed through the streets



Mr Gerald Hall, the window cleaner stabbed in the stomach yesterday, pictured with his daughter, Charlotte.

being attacked and rushed to help.

After he was stabbed, he staggered into the main reception area of the bank and collapsed.

Mr Hall's wife, Janet, aged 30, fought back tears last night as she described how her husband, a keep-fit fanatic, was the sort of man to rush to somebody's aid.

She was speaking after visiting her husband at hospital after his 90-minute operation.

"It is just the sort of thing he would do," she said. "He would go to the aid of anybody he saw in trouble. He would not think of the danger of anything like that. It is in his nature."

Mrs Hall said her husband was not able to speak to her. "All he could say to me was 'the pain'."

"All I could do was hold his hand to comfort him but I do feel that he has set a good example to the community and I am proud of him."

The couple, of County Park Avenue, Halesowen, West Midlands, have been married for seven years and have a daughter, Charlotte, whose first birthday was last month.

Mrs Hall said of the men who stabbed her husband: "They are evil. What can you say about people who would do something like that?"

Mr Hall's father, Bill, of Northfield, Birmingham, who runs a small window cleaning business with his son, said: "Gerald has always said that if something like that happened he would get involved. He would not just stand by and let somebody else get hurt. We are very proud of him."

Det Chief Supt Jim Byrne, the head of West Midlands CID, said: "This was a heinous crime colloquially called mugging. It was a tragic end for a man described by his employees as a very loyal and trusted servant of the company."

"Mr Hall was extremely brave to try to help him."

"This is a danger that security guards face on the streets daily, unarmed."

Securicor said last night that the reward was for information leading to the prosecution of those responsible.

"We instruct our guards that in no circumstances must they attempt to save the money if they are putting their own lives or those of their crewmen or the public in danger," the company added.

"They are trained to make judgements on the spot."

Birthday girl has the whip hand



Miss Amanda Broomfield celebrated her twenty-first birthday yesterday by becoming the first "Lady Whip" for 100 years to drive an 1860 horse-drawn coach built by Crawle of Pearth, Cumbria. Her father, Mr David Broomfield, has almost completed restoration of the carriage at their home, Nurstead Hill Farm, near Longfield, Kent (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Broadcasting monitoring Grade attacks 'aged' TV watchdogs

By Our Media Editor

Mr Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, yesterday criticized the elderly make-up of the Broadcasting Standards Council and said it would be totally out of touch with his station's young audiences.

His latest assault on the Government's new television watchdog comes two weeks after Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, announced the names of the six people who will serve with Sir William Rees-Mogg.

Mr Grade, who has consistently opposed the idea of the standards council, said: "I do not quite see how a council whose average age is 60 is going to understand what Channel 4 is about. The average age of a Channel 4 viewer is about 40."

"It is a very depressing thought that its average age is 60. I do not know how they can be in touch with what a Channel 4 audience expects. How are they going to sit and look at Channel 4 and understand the mentality of the viewers who watch Channel 4?"

Mr Grade, speaking at a Broadcasting Press Guild lunch in London, added: "They are just not capable of it. They are totally out of tune with our audience."

"There are no writers on the council, there is nobody with professional expertise in the management of broadcasting on the council."

Mr Grade, who attacked the appointment of Sir William as chairman in May, said he failed to understand what collective wisdom the "great and the good" at the BBC would bring to broadcasting, which had not already been provided by the BBC board of governors and the members of the Independent Broadcasting Authority. "They are all drawn from the same list", Mr Grade added.

Earlier, he voiced his concern about Government plans radically to increase the levy

Journalist in Palace 'leak' to leave BBC

By Richard Evans Media Editor

Mr Michael Cole, the BBC television journalist involved last year in the leak of the Queen's Christmas broadcast, is leaving the corporation to become media chief of the House of Fraser group, owned by the Al-Fayed brothers.

He is expected to take up the post in September, possibly before the publication of the Department of Trade and Industry report into the £615 million takeover of House of Fraser, which includes Harrods, by the Egyptian brothers.

Mr Cole, who joined the BBC 20 years ago, submitted his resignation yesterday. His position as media director of House of Fraser Holdings will put him in charge of the group's relations with the news media and he will advise on media acquisitions.

"I am delighted to be joining such an outstanding organization. I feel very privileged to be appointed to the board of management of what is, in a very special way, just as much of a national and international institution as the BBC itself," he said yesterday.

Mr Mohammed Al-Fayed said the appointment of Mr Cole showed the importance the group placed on media relations in all aspects of the organization's activities.

Mr Cole, aged 45, reported for BBC television news from 105 countries. He was appointed court correspondent in 1985 and was in the headlines last year after the contents of the Queen's Christmas broadcast were leaked. A confidential conversation with reporters about the broadcast was used in the *Daily Express* and *Daily Star*.

Killing charge

John De-Veckey, aged 43, of Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset, appeared in the town's magistrates' court yesterday accused of murdering his mother, Anna, on Tuesday. He was remanded in custody for a week.

World voyage

David Smet-Jones, aged 57, completed a 35,000-mile solo voyage around the world yesterday, arriving at Fishguard, Dyfed, nearly three years after setting out. He has only one lung and sight in one eye.

Volvo recall

Volvo is replacing the brake cylinders on 33,000 of its small 300 series car models built in 1985 because a manufacturing fault in the seal could lead to brake failure.

Alarm over 'bouncing' road bridge

By Rodney Cowton Transport Correspondent

Reports of a motorway bridge that "flexed" and "bounced" caused anxiety among road users in the Manchester area yesterday and led to a radio station's telephone switchboard being jammed with calls.

Piccadilly Radio, Manchester's commercial radio station, had broadcast a letter from a driver who complained of having felt the Barton Bridge, on the M63, move as traffic crawled across it.

One motorist, Mr David Johnson, from Gatley, Manchester, said he had felt the bridge "vibrating and bouncing up and down."

He added: "I thought there must have been an earthquake or something. I expected the whole lot to go at any minute."

Mr Gordon Osborne, chief engineer of an £18 million project to widen the Barton Bridge, said motorists had nothing to fear.

"All bridges flex. With traffic coming to a standstill people will notice movement more readily. It is the sort of flexing we would expect on a structure such as this."

Churches draw most visitors

By Shona Crawford Poole, Travel Editor

Record numbers of visitors paced the ancient flags and floorboards of England's historic buildings last year. A total of 67 million people boosted attendance at the country's heritage properties by 9 per cent, says the English Tourist Board's report *English Heritage Monitor* published today.

Not since the Silver Jubilee year of 1977 has there been such rapid growth in visits, the report says.

Churchgoing, which is free, proved more popular than catching a glimpse of the Crown Jewels. Westminster Abbey topped the heritage list with 3.5 million visitors, followed by St Paul's Cathedral with 2.5 million. The Tower of London, which houses the Crown Jewels and charges for admission, drew 2,289,354 visitors.

The increase in visitor numbers pushed takings up by 13 per cent to £108 million, which in turn supported 16,000 jobs.

Of those properties which attracted at least 30,000 visitors, ten 10 recorded an increase of 30 per cent or better. At the Chapter House at Westminster Abbey the number of visits doubled.

The 10 most popular attractions charging admission, in descending order, are: Tower of London; Roman Baths and Pump Room at Bath, Avon; State Apartments at Windsor Castle, Berkshire; Warwick Castle; Stonehenge, Wiltshire; Hampton Court Palace, south-west London; Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire; Leeds Castle, Kent; Beaulieu, Hampshire; Tower Bridge, London.

McCartney decries Lennon book

Paul McCartney yesterday urged a boycott of a new book which portrays John Lennon, his former songwriting partner, as a homosexual close to madness.

The former Beatle made a statement defending Lennon as a "wonderful human being". Lennon was shot dead in New York eight years ago.

Mr McCartney accused Albert Goldman, author of *The Lives of John Lennon*, of writing a "piece of trash" and said Lennon was no more than "wild and whacky". He said: "It is disgusting that someone like Goldman can make up any old bunch of lies he sees fit and can be allowed to publish them without fear of retribution."

The American author, a former professor of English aged 60, said the book was the result of six years' work and 1,200 interviews. He said it detailed a long-running affair between Lennon and Brian Epstein, the Beatles' homosexual manager. It also said Lennon became a drug-abusing anorexic recluse in New York, bordering on insanity at times, and was violent to his wife, Yoko Ono.

Mr McCartney said: "With the exception of his close relatives, I knew John longer than anyone. I would have thought that once in all that time, perhaps during an unguarded moment, there would have been a suggestion of the homosexuality referred to by Goldman."

"There was never even the slightest hint of this kind, in fact quite the opposite - John was very attracted to women."

De Savary lifeline for Cornish port

By Michael Horsnell

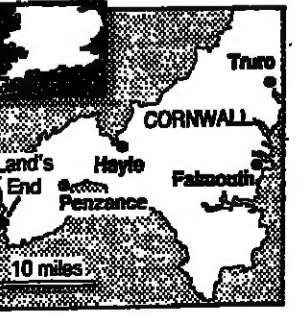
Mr Peter de Savary, the entrepreneur, yesterday bought his third piece of Cornwall in a multi-million pound deal aimed at turning a neglected harbour town into Britain's leading tourist resort.

His company Aldersgate Development, has bought Hayle harbour and 570 surrounding acres for an undisclosed sum.

Mr de Savary, aged 44, also disclosed that he has submitted a bid to British Shipbuilders for the Appledore shipyard in north Devon, one of the last state-owned yards.

Frustrated in his attempt to spearhead Britain's challenge for the America's Cup, Mr de Savary consoled himself with what he called his new dreams.

He will now commission a five-month feasibility study



find out from all the experts who are looking at it for me if it is viable. Personally I think it is. If it's viable then we shall carry forward. It will not be one of those master plans that stays on the desk."

The entrepreneur's growing interests in Cornwall reflect his love of the county to which friends say he will eventually retire.

As a priority, engineering work will begin soon on improving water flows to remove the dangerous sand bar at Hayle's harbour entrance on which three local fishermen died recently when their boat capsized.

A leisure complex proposed for the town would be all-weather and could bring up to 4,000 jobs into the unemployment blackspot.

Conservation of the environment would be a priority

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Prisons dispute is stepped up as more jails ban admissions

By Andrew Morgan

The dispute in the prison system escalated yesterday when women officers throughout the country refused to handle new admissions in support of their striking colleagues at Holloway Prison, north London, who are at the centre of a dispute over manning levels.

Talks between the Prison Department and the Prison Officers' Association about the Holloway issue were adjourned again last night and will resume today. Mr John Bartell, chairman of the POA, said that progress on a new peace formula had been "painfully slow".

Officers refused new admissions of prisoners at Styal Prison, Cheshire, Low Newton Prison, Durham and Risley remand centre, Cheshire.

Officers at Drake Hall, Ecclestone, in Staffordshire and Cookham Wood, in Kent, refused to take any transferred prisoners from Holloway, where the number of inmates last night was 455, compared with 471 last week.

Officers at most other establishments said they would refuse to handle new

admissions when the official number of inmates was reached (the certified normal accommodation [CNA] level). The number of prisoners in police cells had risen last night to 1,067 with the majority from the South-east region, which includes East Anglia and the Isle of Wight. On July 29, the day the Holloway dispute started, the figure was 713.

Last March Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, was forced to open two former army camps when the number of prisoners in cells reached 1,500.

Styal yesterday had 264 prisoners with a CNA of 262. Mrs Patricia Burgess, the POA branch chairman, said that the action was in support of the Holloway women, but it was also being used to highlight local grievances over manning.

"We will not be receiving any new prisoners until the figures drop to a safe level and we want a complete unit to be closed."

"There is a feeling of relief that some action is now being taken. We will have to discuss

the situation if the Holloway dispute is resolved," Mrs Burgess said.

"Nobody does this lightly or for the fun of it. We are not making excuses. We have the facts and it will not get any better. At present, we are struggling and conditions are appalling, yet the Home Office seems determined to let us struggle. There is a limit to how long it can go on."

In spite of most prisons not taking any new admissions after the CNA figure is reached, the Home Office said that officers at East Sutton, near Maidstone, and Durham prison were waiting until the outcome of the negotiations.

The Home Office said it could take days for figures to reach the CNA, but Mrs Burgess believes that the situation at Styal will force more women into the system and establishments could reach saturation by the weekend.

Mrs Brenda Guest, the branch secretary, added: "The officers at Holloway work in extremely dangerous conditions because they are badly under-manned. It is very volatile and the most dangerous establishment in the country."

Inner city teenagers sample campus life

By Sam Kiley
Universities Reporter

"Most of my friends think that university is just for posh kids", said Samson Defewo, aged 15, who, standing 5ft 7in, in his Reeboks, Ray Bans and gleaming white "strides", looks every inch the designer he hopes to be. The son of a Nigerian immigrant, he is one of 54 schoolchildren from some of the most deprived areas of inner London who will be "adopted" by students at Essex University after a 10-day summer camp.

While staying at the university it is hoped the children will realize that the desecration of the creative spirit and erosion of ambition that traps many of Samson's young friends in the poverty of Britain's inner cities can be reversed by positive thinking.

Maria Krassos, aged 15, whose parents are unemployed, said she hoped one day to study photography. "We never had this opportunity to look over a university. Around us in Peckham, people don't even know they exist", her mother, Mrs Susan Krassos, said.

According to Mr Sam Egwa, the project co-ordinator and a graduate of the university, students at Essex who have taken on one of the children will act as educational guardians, providing support and encouragement throughout their careers, in the hope that some will make it to university or a top level job.

"We want them to realize their full potential. There is a whole lot of talent out there just waiting to be tapped. Giving these kids a chance to build up a sense of self-motivation and self-esteem will be good for them."



Off to summer school: children on their way to spend 10 days at Essex University (Photograph: Graham Wood).

Mr Brian Rowe, head of marketing at Queen's Park Rangers football club, south-west London, who has sponsored 10 youngsters from Hammersmith School on the course, said: "We are very concerned that violence in the

terraces is caused by a lack of ambition and a sense of deprivation. Sponsoring this project is a natural extension of our philosophy of getting closer to the community."

The course also receives funds from the Prince's Trust, but the children, from schools in Hackney, Hammersmith, Peckham, Leyton, North Kensington, raised £30,000 towards the project last December on a sponsored

walk. The money will be spent on producing a play, radio show, video and record based on their experiences while at the university. But if children are prepared to walk from City Hall to Colchester in mid-winter, are they really those who need motivating?"

Mrs Kate Austin, a teacher at Hammersmith School said that this had been a problem. The response from the ethnic minority children at her school

to the project had been overwhelming, but among the traditional working class it had been negligible.

"This may be because the ethnic children recognized that their need was greatest while the others went on holiday. It may, however, be that children whose families have been in the area longer feel totally hopeless - and that we have not reached them yet", she said.

Further delays to road repair work

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

A cutback on motorway and trunk road maintenance work could mean that the national backlog of repairs will not be eliminated until at least 1996, instead of 1992 as planned.

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, announced on June 20 that because of pressures on his budget he was reviewing a £142-million programme of repairs for this year announced in March.

Now the trade association for the suppliers of road-building materials, British Aggregate Construction Materials Industries, says there appears to be a moratorium on new contracts and tenders for reconstruction and structural works, apart from on one section of the M40. It suggests that spending on this type of work will be cut by half or more during this financial year.

If that is correct, and even if the programme returns to

planned levels from next spring, the trade association estimates that the existing backlog of motorway repairs will not be eliminated until 1996/97.

● Southampton is planning a £30-million rapid transit system to link its city centre areas.

It will have a three-mile track, positioned about 20ft above the ground, operating shuttles at speeds of up to 45mph, with one vehicle every two minutes.

The scheme was outlined by council officials yesterday, who hope it will be largely financed by the private sector. It could be in operation by 1992 and is forecast to carry about 10 million passengers a year. Vehicles will be electrically powered and operated from a control centre.

It is planned to place a private bill before Parliament in November seeking approval for the scheme.

Police report 29% breath-testing rise

By Our Transport Correspondent

The number of reported roadside breath tests in England and Wales rose by more than a quarter last year, and during the two-week period over Christmas the daily rate of testing was more than twice as high as the average for the year as a whole.

Statistics published by the Home Office yesterday show that in 1987 there were 392,000 reported roadside breath tests, an increase of 29 per cent over the previous year. Of those, 97,000 proved positive and 16,000 drivers were arrested for refusing the tests.

The Home Office said up to half the increase in the number of tests may have been the result of more comprehensive reporting than in previous

years. About 80 per cent of the tests were administered where a traffic offence had occurred, and the remainder after an accident.

In the two weeks from December 19 to January 1, the level of testing rose markedly. The average daily number was 2,600, compared with 1,100 a day for the year as a whole.

The statistics show large variations in the rate of testing by different police forces, ranging from three to 245 a day in 1987.

When the number of tests is related to the size of the population in individual police force areas, it is found that for all but four forces, the rates of testing were between one and four per 100,000 people a day.

English rush to buy Scots homes

By Kerry Gill

House prices in many parts of Scotland are soaring with so-called "blue chip" properties in Edinburgh and country houses in Perthshire and the Borders recording spectacular rises.

The buoyant market has been caused by the unprecedented availability of finance coupled with the realization that property has hitherto been under-valued.

Many houses, such as Georgian apartments in Edinburgh's New Town, are being snapped up by people from the South-east of England. A typical example was a flat advertised at offers over £90,000 selling for £130,000. In the Borders, a country house marketed in excess of £150,000 was snapped up by an English buyer for more than £200,000. Another senior executive bought a substantial house south-west of Glasgow and now commutes to London every day by shuttle.

Mr Michael Ramsay, a partner with D M Hall and Son, chartered surveyors, said there was no doubt that people had

realized that property had been under-valued in the past.

"Money is coming from everywhere. There have never been so many sources of finance, with banks and building societies competing for business."

"Edinburgh is now a financial centre second to London and I think this is having an effect. There is no problem in getting loans here," he said yesterday.

In Edinburgh, the cost of a four-bedroom, stone terrace house has risen by around 50 per cent in 12 months to £200,000.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in Scotland has labelled the phenomenon "buy-at-any-cost fever". But some members have warned against paying over the odds in case of a deterioration in the market.

House prices are also rising in the Glasgow and central Scotland area. In Glasgow, tenement flats - once despised, but now subject to renovation - can fetch more than £40,000.

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Court seizes Ken Dodd's passport over tax charges

By Michael Horsnell

Ken Dodd, the comedian, was ordered to surrender his passport yesterday after magistrates were told he might flee the country rather than face trial over an alleged tax fraud involving up to £500,000.

The Liverpool entertainer from Knotty Ash, who was made an OBE in 1982, faced nine new charges when he was committed for trial on a total of 27 offences.

Liverpool Magistrates' Court was told there were fears, denied by the defence,



Still smiling: Ken Dodd after the hearing yesterday.

that Mr Dodd, aged 56, who has assets overseas, might flee the country.

No figure for the amount of tax allegedly owed was disclosed during the 25-minute hearing, but sums of £350,000 and £475,000 were mentioned relating to a period up to April this year.

Mr Norman Wootton, the stipendiary magistrate, ordered Mr Dodd to surrender his passport, but said he could apply for its return for "specific periods and purposes".

Mr Dodd was granted bail on sureties of £25,000 each from his girl friend and his brother.

Mr David Hartnett, senior principal inspector of taxes in charge of the investigation, told the crowded court: "The Inland Revenue view makes this case much more serious than we originally thought."

"Dodd has overseas assets, but only he has knowledge what these assets are. I have confidential information that Mr Dodd might not be at any trial which may take place. But I have had no opportunity to check that information."

Cross-examined by Miss Susan Klonin, for the defence, he agreed that the defendant had been aware of an Inland Revenue investigation and that they had been going

through his affairs "with a fine-toothed comb for some years".

Miss Klonin asked: "Until these further allegations were made in recent weeks, Mr Dodd had made efforts to pay to the Inland Revenue all that was owed?"

Mr Hartnett replied: "Yes, in the last two days."

Miss Klonin said Mr Dodd had decided to apply for reporting restrictions to be lifted because he was anxious for wide media coverage of his protestations of innocence.

"He proposes to stand his trial. He has been fully co-operative with the Inland Revenue," she said.

"Mr Dodd was born and bred in this area. He has no intention of fleeing the country."

However, she added: "He very much needs a break. He suffers from bronchitis and emphysema. His doctor advises that he should go abroad for his health."

Mr Wootton agreed to bail, but added: "His passport will also be surrendered. But I give leave to apply for its return for specific periods and purposes."

Mr Dodd hopes to take a 22-day holiday abroad at the end of the month.

The nine new charges

against Mr Dodd relate to the period 1983 to 1987. Three are common law charges alleging false accounting involving the comedian's company, Ken Dodd Enterprises.

The other six come under the Theft Act 1968 and also relate to Ken Dodd Enterprises. They allege that Mr Dodd falsified documents with a view to "gain for himself".

The 18 previous charges relate to Mr Dodd's three companies, Diddy Scripts, Happiness Music and Ken Dodd Enterprises, as well as banking accounts, savings accounts, loan accounts, safety deposit boxes and building society and co-operative society accounts.

A number of the charges allege delivery of false accounts of the net profits of Ken Dodd Enterprises with intent to defraud the Inland Revenue between 1972 and 1983.

Three charges accuse the comedian of omitting income from his tax returns with intent to defraud the taxman between 1981 and 1983.

One accuses him of "cheating" the Queen and Inland Revenue by excluding from returns income from his entertainment works, overseas earnings and interest.

Run for the world



Kriss Akabusi, the athlete, with his daughter Ashanti, aged four, at the launch of Sport Aid 88 in London yesterday when he signed for the global Race Against Time on September 11 in aid of children's charities (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

JP applauds commuter's Tube protest

By Patrick O'Hanlon

A commuter who was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct after complaining to London Underground staff about "dangerous" overcrowding on an escalator, was congratulated yesterday by a magistrate who dismissed the charges against him.

Miss Audrey Jennings told Mr Christopher Sutton, aged 58, a television producer of Adolphus Road, Finsbury Park, north London: "What you met when you tried to make a proper protest was appalling."

Mr Sutton said that Mr Henry Feathers, the station manager at Oxford Circus Underground station, had dismissed his complaint and suggested that he write to London Transport.

When Mr Sutton protested he was arrested by British Transport Police and bundled into an office shouting "Help me."

Mr Sutton, who conducted his own defence at Wells Street Magistrates' Court, central London, said: "When I got to the top of the escalator there was a mass of bodies in front of me, nearly prostrate because they were being knocked forward."

were open and when he complained to Mr Feathers about the danger, "he said 'tell it to 55, The Broadway' (London Transport's headquarters). I just don't know what would have happened had there been a fire."

Mr Feathers claimed that Mr Sutton "went berserk", saying "You will have another King's Cross disaster on your hands" and shouting "what are you going to do?"

The station manager admitted that there was "a bit of a bottleneck at the station", but added "we haven't got the staff".

Six fellow passengers including Mr Martin Davis, a fire protection engineer, offered evidence in Mr Sutton's defence. Mr Davis said: "It had the makings of a disaster. I just don't know what one does if you can't get off the escalator." He was horrified to see Mr Sutton being dragged away "like some kind of convict."

Miss Jennings told Mr Sutton: "I consider it a great relief that people like you are still around."

She dismissed both charges and awarded Mr Sutton costs out of central funds.

'Blitz' on benefit frauds at resorts

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Fraud investigators are running a "summer blitz" at holiday resorts to catch casual hotel, restaurant and beach-side workers who are drawing unemployment benefit illegally.

In recent summers similar inquiries have led to thousands of people withdrawing their claims.

Last year, Department of Employment investigators reported that about 80,000 illegal claimants had left the register and 3,960 were prosecuted.

After deducting the cost of the investigations, the saving to the taxpayer during the year was £54.6 million.

The blitz was highlighted yesterday by the release of details of inquiries at Torbay, Devon. Investigators there began interviewing employers and going through their books in July.

They reported such widespread fraud that a second investigation was begun almost as soon as the first had finished.

In the first four-week drive, aimed mainly at finding claimants from inland cities who work at seaside resorts during the summer months, the investigators examined 728 cases.

Of those, 258 claimants agreed to withdraw their claims for benefits. Only the worst 20 are to be prosecuted. The second exercise in Torbay is scheduled to last six weeks.

The investigators believe unemployment fraud in Torbay is twice the national average. The clampdown in the town is said to have already saved the taxpayer around £200,000 in benefit payments.

At the Department of Employment in London, officials confirmed the figures and said "three or four" similar exercises were going on at other coastal resorts.

Investigations in places such as Torbay were now "customary" in the summer and were usually highly successful.

Last year a total of 396,200 individual investigations were carried out.

Mr John Cope, Minister of State for Employment, said that his department had put extra resources into fraud investigation this year and it was determined to stop any abuse of the benefit system.

He went on: "Although we know the majority of claimants are unemployed and looking for work, there are a significant minority of people who set out to defraud the system. That is why we are undertaking special fraud exercises such as the recent joint exercise with the Department of Social Security in Torbay, which has saved the taxpayer almost £200,000."

Mr Cope said the Torbay exercise was due to end in early September.

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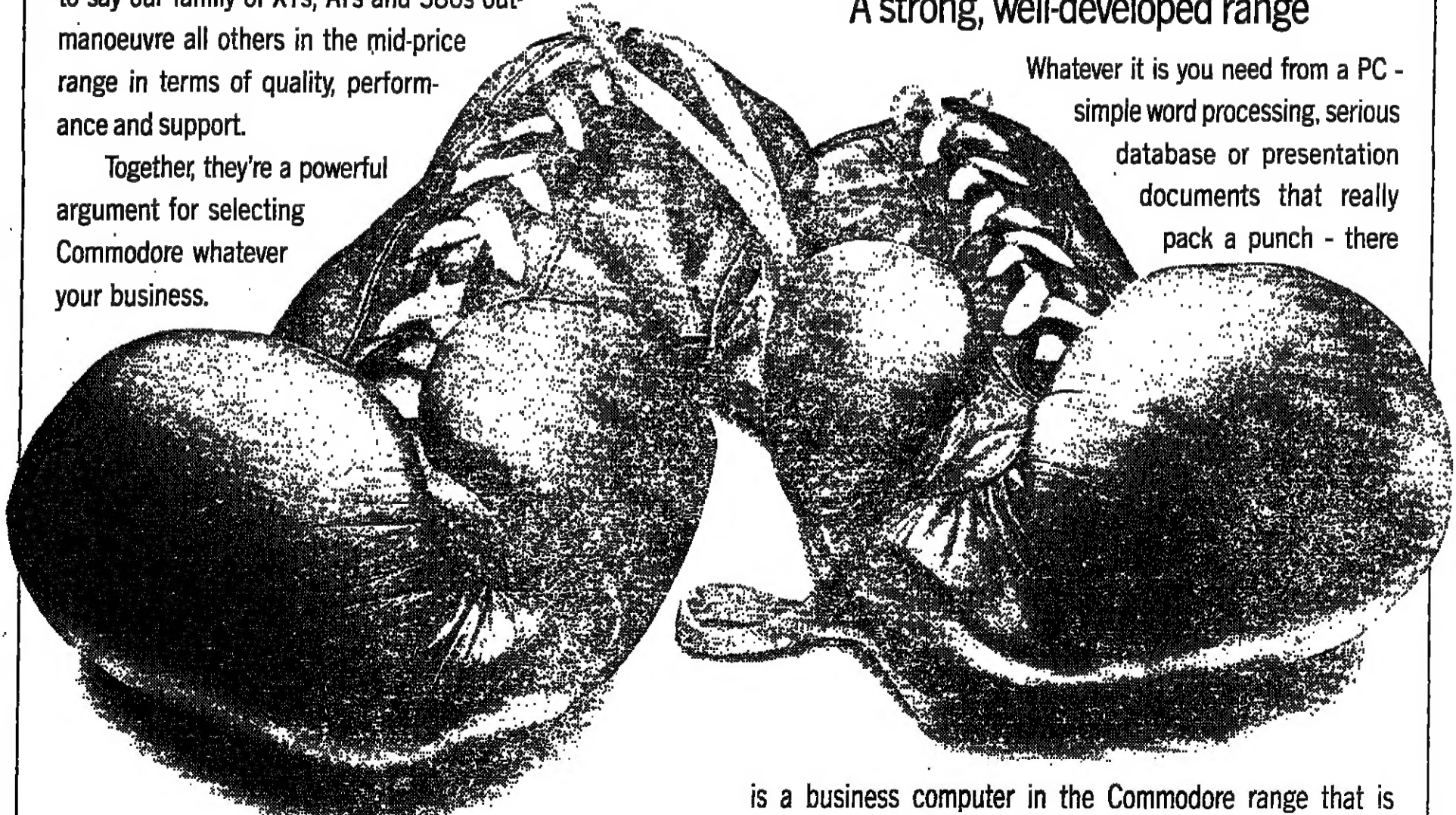
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Hattersley alleges election 'trickery'

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Roy Hattersley yesterday maintained Labour's offensive against the Government's handling of the economy by claiming that the Conservatives had played a "confidence trick" on the electorate to win the 1987 general election.

Labour's deputy leader said that his party's prediction before the last election that the Government was precipitating a sterling and balance of payments crisis had been correct in everything but timing.

Labour's only error had been to forecast that the day of reckoning would come in the autumn or winter of 1987.

Mr Hattersley, speaking in Exeter, said that interest rates had recently risen for the seventh time in two months,

imposing a disastrous burden on industrialists who wanted to invest. The mortgage rate was so high that the cost of buying a house had increased by more than the average reductions in income tax. Inflation was likely to rise by more than 6 per cent, almost twice the rate forecast by the Government, and the balance of payments accelerated into ever increasing deficit.

In spite of all this, the Government continued to fuel the flames which had scorched the economy. Debts outstanding on consumer credit agreements had topped £25 billion for the first time.

Mr Hattersley said this was the price the Government was paying for a Conservative victory.

Millionaire is fined for killing protected bird

Millionaire stores group founder Mr Michael Robertson shot a protected heron because it was eating his rare and valuable Japanese fish, a court was told yesterday.

Mr Robertson, aged 66, had spent £2,000 stocking the lakes around one of his shops with Japanese koi, but herons constantly flew in and speared the fish with their beaks.

"Heron is a protected species but they are an absolute plague. I know what I did was wrong but I regard them as vermin," Mr Robertson said in a letter to South-east Cornwall magistrates sitting at Liskeard.

Two waterside, near Liskeard, pleaded guilty to intentionally killing a heron on May 31. He was fined £150.

In his letter Mr Robertson said: "In Austria they have an open season on herons. I gave up shooting some time ago but I regard it as an unwritten law that they can be shot."

Mr Robertson has had a series of long-running planning battles. Two years ago his company was fined £4,500, by the same magistrates, for illegally felling 208 trees to make room for a new car park at his Liskeard shop. The incident was known locally as the "Trago Mills' Chainsaw Massacre".

'Tortured' SLA captives may be linked to hostage deal

From Robert Fisk, Qabriha, southern Lebanon

Militia officers in southern Lebanon are suggesting that the 260 or so Shia Muslim inmates of the notorious prison at Khiam in the south of the country may form part of the ultimate deal to free Western hostages in Lebanon.

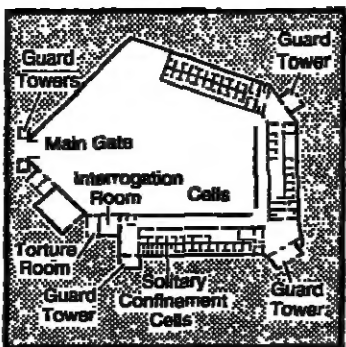
The Lebanese guerrilla resistance movement has now obtained a detailed map of the large jail in the Israeli-occupied zone of the country from a professional civil engineer who was imprisoned there, and it shows the room where prisoners say they are tortured with electricity.

It also shows 14 solitary confinement cells which former inmates say are only 3 ft by 3 ft and 3 ft 6 in high and in which they say they have been held for up to a week at a time in total darkness.

The Times obtained a copy of the map from a former prisoner, who described how he worked for the prison guards in order to see every part of the jail.

The man, whose first name is Mohamed but who asked not to be further identified for fear of retribution from pro-Israeli militia, says that he was questioned while electric shocks were being administered to him from a hand-cranked generator.

Officials of the Amal movement and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah are now speaking privately of the possibility of swapping Western captives in Beirut for some of the Khiam prisoners, many of whom were seized in Israeli raids and accused of membership of resistance groups. Mr Nabih Berri, the



Amal leader in Beirut, has in the past alluded several times to the necessity of releasing the Khiam inmates if a satisfactory conclusion is to be found to the ordeal of the Western hostages, and at least one Hezbollah spiritual leader is now linking Khiam to their fate.

The International Committee of

the Red Cross has been prevented from visiting the jail and Amnesty International has condemned what it says is good evidence of torture with electricity there.

UN troops in that part of Lebanon have reported screams coming from the prison, a former French mandate fort that was used as part of an RAF base during the Second World War.

The Times was given detailed statements last year by former prisoners of ill treatment and torture.

The Israelis say that, although the prison is in their occupation area, it is run by the Israeli-paid and Israeli-trained "South Lebanon Army" militia — and that Israel cannot therefore give permission for a Red Cross visit. Former inmates say that Israelis often carry out interrogations and

visit the jail and must therefore know what goes on there.

El-Sayed Samaha Fadlallah, the principal Hezbollah spiritual leader in the far south of Lebanon, told The Times this week that the Western hostages might be released in parallel with Khiam prisoners — men and women whom the Shia Muslims of this part of the country also regard as hostages.

The United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO) keeps confidential lists of inmates, many of whom have been held for several years.

In the village of Majdal Sittim, for example, two men — Abdul Halim Yassin, aged 25, and Ali Ahmed Milhem, a 40-year-old father of seven — were taken away by Israeli troops in June, 1985, and imprisoned in Khiam. They have still

not been released. The former prisoner, Mohamed, whose map of Khiam is in the hands of the Lebanese resistance movement, said that he had himself been tortured with electric shock — when he was arrested in 1985.

He added that after some months his treatment improved when his Israeli and SLA captors realized that he was not a guerrilla.

His map shows the pentagon-shaped outer wall of the jail surrounded by five watchtowers and a barbed wire perimeter fence. He has identified a small room on the left-hand side of the map as the torture location.

The central parade ground, he said, was often used by guards who made prisoners stand there for 48 hours without food or water. Private requests to General An-

toine Lahd — the former Lebanese Army officer who controls the SLA militia — to visit the jail have always been rejected. He refused to allow The Times to see it last year. No trials are ever held for the inmates, although some former prisoners report that a local Lebanese doctor from the town of Marjayoun sometimes came to visit them.

When the American passengers from the hijacked TWA aircraft were released in 1985, their freedom was part of an agreement to release Palestinian and Lebanese inmates of the Israeli prison at Attit.

Since then there have been repeated hints — among Western diplomats as well as militias — that the Khiam prisoners might ultimately be exchanged for Western hostages in Beirut.

First of UN's blue berets begin Gulf peace mission

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The thin blue line of United Nations peace-keeping troops who will stand between Iran and Iraq, possibly for many years, began to take shape yesterday.

The first five peace-keepers flew into Tehran yesterday a few hours after a similar group reached Baghdad. They will be joined by 350 other observers drawn from 25 countries, before the ceasefire negotiated by the United Nations officially begins at 3am GMT on August 20.

The size of their task was underlined when Tehran radio announced that Iraqi jets flew over five Iranian towns yesterday, although no military action was reported.

The arrival of the first UN blue berets in Tehran follows that of Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Foreign Minister, who was in London earlier in the week. Although his visit is primarily to discuss trade issues, he is expected to raise the fate of Western hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

None of the hostages is Australian, but because relations between Tehran and Canberra have not suffered the same strains as those with London and Washington, he will be well placed to intercede. Australian sources

in London said he had no meetings with British ministers or church leaders during a two-day stopover, but his mission comes at a time of revived optimism on the hostages.

Mr Hayden is understood to have approved of a visit to Tehran last month by the

The 24 countries which have offered military observers are Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, the Irish Republic, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Senegal, Sweden, Turkey, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, the Most Rev David Penman, who said later that he was hopeful the hostages would be released before long.

The unarmed United Nations monitoring force, to be known as Unimog (UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group), will be tiny in relation to the size of its task. It will attempt to monitor the disputed 740-mile border, which includes the Shatt al-Arab waterway and areas of marshland, desert and mountains.

It will be assisted by military and civilian back-up staff,

including a Canadian unit of 370 men responsible for communications. But Whitehall sources said neither Britain nor any of the four other permanent members of the Security Council had been asked to contribute personnel.

The border appeared to be quiet yesterday after Iran's announcement that it will observe a *de facto* ceasefire immediately. But the lack of a clear commitment by Baghdad to reciprocate it left a jittery mood in Tehran.

Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Iran's military chief and parliamentary Speaker, ordered all forces to hold their fire but remain alert. He said they were "duty-bound to remain prepared and alert and give a suitable response to any enemy mischief in the air, at sea and on the ground. We are facing enemies whose claims and promises cannot be trusted."

His words may have been intended partly to sustain public morale by focusing on the continuing possibility of a military threat. Unlike Baghdad, Tehran has seen no public rejoicing over the ceasefire, which some regard as a capitulation for which Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani was partly responsible. He is

thought to have been the intellectual force behind Tehran's announcement on July 18 that it would accept the UN Security Council Resolution 598, the development which led to the breakthrough in New York.

Most Western diplomats regard the ceasefire announcement by Senior Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, as only the beginning of a peace process which could take years. He is to attend the opening of face-to-face peace talks in Geneva on August 25, but with a wide range of contentious issues to be resolved, no one expects fast progress.

The delegates, who are expected to include the foreign ministers of the two countries, will be faced with trying to settle by negotiation the fastening border dispute which eight years of fighting has failed to clarify.

Iraq's original reason for invading Iran in 1980 was its dissatisfaction with an agreement made in Algiers in 1975 between the Shah and President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader. It moved the international border from the Iranian bank of the Shatt al-Arab to the middle of the waterway, effectively giving half of it to Iran.

A glide from the top of Mount Fuji



Rick Duncan, the Australian hang-glider champion, centre, preparing for a flight from 12,400 ft Mount Fuji, the highest mountain in Japan. Mr Duncan glided around for an hour before landing in a school yard at the foot of the mountain.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Pretoria's troops start to pull out

South African troops began pulling out from forward bases in southern Angola yesterday in accordance with agreements reached with the Angolans and Cubans in Geneva earlier this month (Michael Hornby writes from Johannesburg).

"Our troops will cross the border (into Namibia) at different points and at different times," Brigadier Tim Krynan, director of public relations of the South African Defence Force, said. "I cannot say exactly when that will happen. We are still in the planning stage at present."

The number of troops involved in the withdrawal, which under the Geneva agreements must be completed by next month, has not been disclosed, but informed military sources estimated that between 2,000 and 2,500 men were still inside southern Angola, the scene of heavy fighting over the past year.

● **HARARE:** President Mugabe of Zimbabwe says he fears an increase in South African "destabilisation" attacks on its black neighbours in the wake of the Angola-Namibia peace accord (Michael Hartnack writes).

Mr Mugabe said the advent of majority rule in Namibia might heighten Pretoria's sense of insecurity and its desire to subvert the independence of its neighbours.

Dubcek under fire

Prague (Reuters) — Czechoslovakia published a sharp attack yesterday on Mr Alexander Dubcek, the ousted leader of the "Prague Spring" reform movement, denouncing his support for Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of *glasnost*.

In an article printed days before the 20th anniversary of the crushing of the reform movement by Soviet tanks, the Communist Party daily *Rude Pravo* accused Mr Dubcek of siding with "rightist opportunists" in 1968 and of being a pawn of reactionary circles today. Mr Dubcek, who led the Czechoslovak Communist Party on the road to "communism with a human face" in 1968, called on the Prague leadership last month to follow Mr Gorbachev's radical reform policies. *Legacy of 1968*, page 12

Ecuador bars Ortega

Bogotá — President Ortega of Nicaragua is to arrive in Quito today to join an informal summit meeting of Latin American leaders after the inauguration of Ecuador's new President, Señor Rodrigo Borja (Geoffrey Matthews writes).

Señor Ortega had accepted an invitation to the inauguration but was refused entry into the country yesterday by the outgoing President, Señor León Febres Cordero, a right winger who broke off diplomatic relations with Managua in 1985. As his first act as President Señor Borja, a Social Democrat, planned to restore ties with Nicaragua. Among the visiting presidents for the ceremony, Dr Fidel Castro of Cuba — making his first visit to South America in 17 years — has proved the star attraction.

Soviet casualties rise

Moscow (Reuters) — Muslim insurgents in Afghanistan's Kandahar province have inflicted casualties on withdrawing Soviet troops and have stepped up activities in an attempt to set up a rival government. *Pravda* said yesterday.

In a front-page report, it said three soldiers from one Soviet unit were killed and six were injured in the two days leading up to last weekend's pull-out. Three more soldiers were wounded when rebels attacked Soviet armoured cars as they left Kandahar. The *Pravda* report did not say whether other units also suffered losses.

Pilot had tumour

Moscow (Reuters) — Tass said yesterday that the death on Saturday at 47 of the cosmonaut, Anatoly Levchenko, was not related to his eight-day space mission last year.

He died after surgery to remove a brain tumour, it said, although previous reports had said only that he died after a grave illness. "Doctors in no way link the cosmonaut's death with his brief space mission," Levchenko, an experienced test pilot, flew a passenger aircraft from the steppes of Kazakhstan to Moscow last December immediately after returning from a week aboard the Mir space station.

Republicans polish campaign policy

Bush cuts Dukakis's poll lead

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Buoyed by the latest poll showing that Vice-President George Bush has cut sharply into the huge lead that Governor Michael Dukakis had over him, Republicans yesterday met in New Orleans to put the finishing touches to the detailed policy platform on which the party will stand during the autumn campaign.

The 30,000-word document reaffirms the main principles of the Reagan presidency. It takes a hard line against abortion and higher taxes, and voices strong support for the Strategic Defence Initiative.

But it also takes into account many of the changes that have occurred since 1984 and the concerns — especially in the social field — that have become the main issues for most voters. It dwells on Republican plans to extend child care, help AIDS victims and the homeless, and respond to changes in the Soviet Union while building on Mr Reagan's arms control policies.

The document was drawn up by staff of the Republican platform committee. It was reviewed and revised by seven sub-committees on Tuesday, and the full text was submitted yesterday to the 106-member committee.

Governor Kay Orr of Nebraska, chairman of the committee, said there had been no major changes by the working parties or real points of controversy, and she did not

expect any opposition to the platform plans to be strong enough to produce minority reports to the full convention. This would mean there is unlikely to be any public debate during the four-day convention on the party's policies, although Republicans have traditionally laid greater emphasis on the platform than Democrats.

Mr Bush yesterday expressed relief at the latest opinion poll, conducted by the Gallup organization and *Newsweek*. This showed Mr Bush only seven percentage points behind Mr Dukakis, instead of the 17-point lead the Democratic nominee enjoyed soon after the Atlanta

convention. "It's a nice change, it's a nice turnaround," Mr Bush said while campaigning in Pennsylvania. "I told you to be patient. I like it, I like it." His Pennsylvania trip, with stops in Erie, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, was his last campaign visit before the convention.

The platform will be finally approved tomorrow. Children and families — at Mr Bush's insistence — receive much more attention than in the 1984 platform.

The draft endorses his plan for tax credits for child care and recognizes that society is in the midst of "sweeping change" as more and more women enter the workforce.

Denial by psychiatrist

Washington — The Massachusetts psychiatrist who was rumored to have treated Governor Michael Dukakis says that he has never counselled the Democratic presidential candidate or been asked to do so on any basis (Michael Binyon writes).

Dr Don Lipsitt yesterday told *The Washington Times*, the conservative newspaper that gave wide publicity to the rumours last week, that he wanted "to put the matter to rest." He said: "Our family and the Dukakis family have been friends for 25 years. Our children have had friendships with their children. But it has never been a professional relationship."

He said that never during their friendship had he advised Mr Dukakis on mental health matters. "If he has asked for advice, I would have told him to rely on Dr Gerald Plotkin (Mr Dukakis's doctor), but he did not ask. I've never given him any psychological advice in my living room, over the back fence or in any other informal setting."

The rumour and subsequent publicity raised considerable controversy in the US, with accusations of dirty campaigning and angry rebukes from the medical profession that the stories were adding to the stigma of getting psychiatric help.

In sections on the family and community, it declares: "Those who suffer from AIDS, their families and the men and women of medicine who care for the afflicted deserve our compassion and help."

It also blames the Democrats for homelessness, attributing this to "the failure of liberalism."

Making the most of Mr Bush's perceived advantage in foreign affairs over his Democratic rival, the platform deals at length with this issue, and in a way markedly different from the Reagan platforms. A less hostile view is taken of the Soviet Union, and the draft deals with the Gorbachev changes and discusses the proper balance between scepticism and summery.

Republican policy "must be built upon three basic pillars: strength, realism and dialogue." The accords reached with Moscow in recent years were the direct result of tough Republican policy of "peace through strength."

There is strong support for President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative, which Mr Dukakis has criticized.

It declares that "Republicans reject the concept of a Palestinian state between Jordan and Israel." And while it calls South African racism "morally repugnant," and says the party will not rest until apartheid is eliminated, it does not call for sanctions against South Africa.

Party chief hints at compromise on future of enclave

From Our Correspondent, Moscow

The Communist Party leader of Nagorno-Karabakh yesterday published an article in which, for the first time, he appeared to indicate that the Azerbaijani region would settle for less than transfer to Armenia.

Mr Genrikh Poghosian, an ethnic Armenian, said in *Moscow News*: "We have obtained the main thing; the doors between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia have opened wide."

But it was not clear to what extent Mr Poghosian's article reflected a real shift in opinion in Nagorno-Karabakh, where the Armenian majority has been campaigning since February, through mass demonstrations and prolonged strikes, for the transfer of the region to Armenia.

In his speech on July 18 to a meeting of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, which firmly declined to redraw territorial boundaries, the 47-year-old leader said the "only real solution" for Nagorno-Karabakh would be to remove it from Azerbaijan.

In his *Moscow News* article he stood by his statement to the meeting of the country's highest state authority. He said: "Having said what I said at the Supreme Soviet Presidium meeting in Moscow, I can look people in the eye with a clear conscience."

Armenian militants have

pledged to continue their struggle. Mr Galustian, Ambatsour, a member of the dissolved Karabakh committee which spearheaded the nationalist movement, said this week that a petition, protesting at the Presidium's decision and calling for the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia was circulating in the Armenian capital, Yerevan.

The 11-member committee has also asked for permission to hold a rally in Yerevan soon, and he said they would call for a new wave of strikes if their demands were not met. Western journalists, meanwhile, were told this week that they had been barred from travelling to the two neighbouring southern republics because of fears that they would fan dissent.

● **Dissidents leave:** The Jewish refusenik family, Yuri and Tanya Ziemba and their 12-year-old daughter Vera, at the centre of a superpower tug-of-war during the Moscow summit, left the Soviet Union yesterday for the United States, ending their 11-year struggle for exit visas.

● **VIENNA:** Hungary's Communist Party leadership has reportedly called for a panel monitoring human rights to be set up within the Warsaw Pact.

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Shamir in 'iron fist' threat to Palestinian state



Mr Shamir: Silencing MPs who opposed his policy yesterday.

Jerusalem (Reuters) — Mr Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's Prime Minister, said yesterday that Israel would use an iron fist to stop any moves to form an independent Palestinian state or government-in-exile.

He rejected international demands for Palestinian self-determination as "hypocritical and meaningless".

At a special session of the Knesset called to discuss Jordan's disengagement from the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Mr Shamir said he opposed Palestinian proposals for an independent state in Israeli-occupied territories and for a Palestinian government-in-exile.

"Israel will not play this game. It will prevent with the utmost vigour any idea of a Palestinian government," he said. "Should there be maniacs who raise (the idea), they will encounter an iron fist which will leave no trace of such attempts," the right-wing leader said.

Mr Shamir rejected pressure to negotiate with Palestinians following King Hussein's announcement

last month that he was handing responsibility for the West Bank to the Palestine Liberation Organization. Israel captured the West Bank, home to 850,000 Palestinians, from Jordan in 1967.

"There is no government in Israel that will countenance ploy, meaningless and hypocritical international demands for self-determination for Palestinians," Mr Shamir said, branding the PLO an "organization of murderers".

Mr Shamir added: "When Jordan made its decision, it harmed the Arab population, not the state of Israel."

At an inner Cabinet meeting on the Jordan disengagement, Mr Shamir clashed with Mr Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, in one of the most heated sessions in recent memory, political sources said.

The two argued over the future of the West Bank and occupied Gaza Strip, which have witnessed an eight-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

"The annexation of the territories

is a disaster for the Jewish people," Mr Peres was quoted as saying. Mr Shamir reportedly replied: "I am opposed to annexation. We do not annex something that belongs to us. I am in favour of imposing Israeli law on parts of the land of Israel, all of the land of Israel is ours."

Mr Shamir, leader of the right-wing Likud bloc, supports talks on Palestinian autonomy in the occupied areas, but rejects an international Middle East peace conference on the ground that it would force Israel to withdraw to insecure borders. Mr Peres, of the Labour Party, supports a United Nations-sponsored conference along with the international community and the Arab world.

Both Likud and Labour oppose a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza or talks with the PLO.

Meanwhile, an Israeli soldier was injured in Ramallah, in the West Bank, when Palestinians threw two petrol bombs, military sources said. Police in the Gaza Strip said they were holding three Palestinians

from the Jabaliyah camp after the murder of an elderly Israeli woman.

● **Taba deadlock:** The latest bid to reach a compromise between Israel and Egypt on the disputed piece of Sinai territory at Taba, in advance of a binding arbitration ruling due at the end of next month, has failed (David Bernstein writes).

An Israeli negotiating team, headed by the Director-General of the Prime Minister's office, Mr Josef Ben-Aharon, returned from Cairo yesterday morning empty-handed after the Egyptian side refused to consider any compromise that did not accept Egypt's sovereignty over the disputed area.

Israel is anxious to reach a compromise in advance of the arbitration ruling which looks like going against it. Egypt appears to be more confident of the outcome and less inclined to agree to any arrangements that would compromise its sovereignty. But it is apparently anxious that Israel might not implement an arbitration ruling so is not opposed to a compromise.

Free trade deal with US

Canada gets ready for election after Liberal challenge

From John Best, Ottawa

The Canadian House of Commons returned to work yesterday, after its two-week summer break, facing the prospect of a speedy dissolution of Parliament and general election after a spectacular gamble by Mr John Turner, the Liberal Leader of the Opposition.

Among political observers in Ottawa, agreement is growing that Mr Brian Mulroney, the Conservative Prime Minister, will not wait long before obtaining a dissolution.

Parliament has been living on borrowed time since July 20, when Mr Turner made a surprise announcement that the Liberal-dominated, non-elected Senate, or Upper House, would stall the Government's legislation, which opens the way to complete free trade with the United States, for as long as it takes to force an election on the issue.

The dominant issue in the campaign is certain to be the divisive free trade question. Both opposition parties, the Liberals and the left-wing New Democratic Party, are opposed to the free-trade deal which Mr Mulroney and President Reagan signed early this year.

It provides for a progressive dismantling of remaining tariff barriers between the two countries over 10 years beginning next January 1.

The opposition parties say that Canada would be smothered in such a close embrace with the US and would eventually lose its political, as well as its economic, independence. Mr Turner, a former Prime Minister, calls the leg

islation derisively the "Sale of Canada Act".

Trade between the two countries, already largely tariff-free, is running at an annual rate of \$24.185 billion (£90 billion) a year: easily the biggest commercial partnership in the world.

The legislation is expected to move quickly through the remaining stages of Commons consideration with the House now back in session. But Mr Turner's ultimatum ensures that, unless ratified in an

Washington (Reuter) — US congressmen have voted overwhelmingly to scrap tariffs on trade with Canada over 10 years.

The 366-40 vote on Tuesday in the House of Representatives reflected the eagerness of American legislators to cement a pact with the country's single largest trade partner. An equally easy passage for the proposals is expected in the Senate.

election, the agreement will not receive final parliamentary approval before the scheduled implementation date.

Thus a general election this year, already widely expected anyway, has been practically guaranteed by the Opposition leader's daring manoeuvre. Many analysts believe that Mr Mulroney will wait until the free-trade legislation goes to the Senate and then move swiftly to send Canada's thirty-third Parliament packing.

So far though, the Prime Minister has refused to show

his hand, saying only that an election will be held at an "appropriate" time.

Technically, the Tories, who swept the Liberals from office with a landslide win in September 1984, have more than a year to go on their five-year mandate. Traditionally, however, elections are held about every four years.

The political atmosphere generally is beginning to look conducive to an early election. For the first time since early in their tenure, the Tories have been showing sustained strength in the opinion polls.

Lately they have been running neck-and-neck with the Liberals, who at one time were far ahead of them, and that may be enough to convince Mr Mulroney that his party has the momentum it needs.

Mr Turner has taken the political gamble of his life in calling the Senate Liberal caucus — made up of senators appointed during the long years of Liberal rule before September, 1984 — to help him fight his free trade battle.

For it will enable Mr Mulroney, on the hustings, to accuse Mr Turner of colluding with non-elected senators to thwart the will of the elected representatives of the people. The Prime Minister, in fact, has begun playing that refrain already.

But Mr Turner argues that he is championing true democracy by ensuring that something of such immense importance to Canada as free trade with the United States does not take effect until Canadians have had a chance to pronounce on it.

Threat of more rain in flooded Sudan



Houses in Khartoum protruding like islands in streets under 6 ft of water — this helicopter-view of the Sudanese capital yesterday reveals the terrible devastation caused by last week's torrential rains. Amid fears of further heavy rainfall in Khartoum, the Sudanese Government has made contingency plans to move hundreds of thousands of people to areas of higher ground, and has used aerial photography to identify suitable places (Andrew McEwen writes).

The risk of a second phase of flooding striking before basic relief efforts can be completed after the first disaster is considered high. Although more than a year's normal rainfall fell in 13 hours last Thursday, another downpour could happen at any time in August. An overnight telex from Oxfam's representative in Sudan, Mr Mark Duffield, said that the Nile had risen two inches in 24 hours because of

heavy rain in Ethiopia, where the Blue Nile rises.

International efforts to assist the Sudanese Government are gathering pace but are still far short of the needs of the 1.5 million people who were made homeless. The Sudanese Red Crescent reported yesterday: "Situation continues near critical condition."

But a more graphic account was given by Miss Fat Diskett, an Oxfam health co-ordinator who flew back on Tuesday. She said yesterday that aid agencies in Khartoum found 30 of their Sudanese staff had been killed, suggesting that the death toll must be much higher than reported.

Oxfam's office administrator, Mrs Randa Mizhe, told her that she fled from her house when it began crumbling and spent the night standing in the floods. But later a dividing wall in her home collapsed, killing four other

people. Another Oxfam worker, Mr Prize Gaby, had his house completely washed away.

She visited the shanty suburb of Haj Yusuf and found destruction on a huge scale. Some of the houses made of mud bricks had dissolved. Others were made of cement blocks held together by mud mortar which had dissolved, bringing the walls down. "It was like a building site," she said.

Open latrines used by refugees who had come to the capital to escape Sudan's civil war and drought had been flooded, contaminating water supplies and creating a high risk of typhoid, dysentery and cholera. When she left there were still severe shortages of bread, drinking water and diesel fuel.

Miss Diskett reported that the total rainfall last Thursday was 22 centimetres (8.66 in), which is more than previously reported. She said this

was equivalent to two years' average rainfall in Khartoum.

Mr Duffield appealed for more blankets, water tanks and plastic sheeting and Oxfam responded by chartering a plane which will leave on Saturday. The British Red Cross is sending another aircraft on tonight loaded with £100,000 worth of penicillin, water-purifying tablets, tents and blankets. Three other aircraft paid for by the British Government will begin leaving tomorrow.

● NAIROBI: Anxiety is increasing in Sudan as a further huge rise in floodwaters is expected to follow the opening of sluices on the Rosieres and Senna dams on the Blue Nile (Andrew Buckle writes).

The decision to open the sluices was forced on the authorities by increasing pressures on the dam walls, according to a statement issued by the Sudanese Embassy in Nairobi.

Capri acts to repel invasion of tourists

Naples (Reuter) — Italian authorities on Capri have threatened tourists with fines of up to £400 if they walk around the island in swimming costumes or wear noisy clogs. The mayor, Signor Saverio Valente, has also banned tents, loud radios and dogs not on leads.

Capri, always overcrowded in summer, had 12,000 visitors in a single day last weekend, prompting calls for measures to limit their numbers.

Nazi expelled

Bolzano (AP) — Anton Maloth, aged 76, sentenced to death in Czechoslovakia in 1948 for war crimes, was being flown to West Germany yesterday after being arrested in Italy with an expired German passport. A Czech extradition plea failed.

Software theft

Chicago (AP) — An 18-year-old high school student was charged with using his personal computer to break into AT & T and government computers and steal more than \$1 million (£588,235) worth of software.

Milking funds

Peking (AFP) — A study reported in the *Legal Daily* showed Chinese milk merchants in Kunming, Yunnan province, had mixed urine and lime with the milk to increase their profits.

Climber lost

Talkeetna (Reuter) — A Spanish climber is presumed dead after falling to return from a solo climb of Mount McKinley, according to reports at this Alaskan station.

Pilot killed

Ankara (Reuter) — A Turkish Air Force jet crashed during a training flight near Western Balikesir, killing its pilot. It is the Turks' fourth Lockheed F-104 to crash this year.

Aids toll up

Moscow (Reuter) — The number of Soviet Aids carriers has risen to 64 and could reach 250 by the end of the year, the newspaper *Trud* reported. It said only one Soviet citizen had developed symptoms.

Crimea crash

Moscow (Reuter) — A Soviet military transport plane with passengers on board crashed into the Sea of Azov off the Crimea, killing an unspecified number of people, the forces paper, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, said.

Camera ban

The Hague (Reuter) — Dutch prostitutes are to use "no camera" stickers in their Amsterdam windows. They complain picture-taking tourists are driving away their clientele.

Superfluous, Zouzou and the tale of two promotion lists

From Phillip Jacobson, Paris

French police farce takes a fresh turn

The senior ranks of France's national police force, already shaken by allegations that a respected Parisian *commissaire* has been extorting money from prostitutes, were thrown into turmoil yesterday by a judgement stripping many top officers of their jobs.

In an unprecedented ruling, the administrative tribunal of Paris declared that the promotion of 130 men by a freshly elected conservative Government in June, 1986, had been illegal and relieved all of them from their commands.

Although the independent tribunal examined only the administrative process by which the officers became divisional *commissaires* (roughly equivalent to the

British chief superintendent), there is, as so often in France, a political dimension in the background. It is no secret that the 1986 promotions were intended to install supporters of the incoming administration of M Jacques Chirac.

One of the first acts of M Chirac's Interior Minister, M Charles Pasqua, was to overturn the table of promotions for *commissaires* drawn up in concert with police representatives by his Socialist predecessor.

Out of the window went seven officers whose loyalties were considered suspect. Two of the casualties had been zealously investigating the activities of the extreme right wing in the troubled French territory of New Caledonia, and four more were suspected of socialist leanings. The sev-

enth was the unfortunate *commissaire* who was responsible for the region which the former Interior Minister, M Pierre Joxe, had represented in Parliament.

M Pasqua's new list included one of his own senior associates, a colleague of M Chirac in the Paris city hall and an officer involved in one of the numerous political scandals of the day.

It was a bold stroke, ignoring the established convention that promotion at this level should not be "politicized".

On the other hand, the *syndicat des commissaires*, considered to speak for the more conservative elements of the national police hierarchy, raised objections to the hasty revision of lists that had only just agreed with M Joxe. Today another

turn of the political wheel in France has brought M Joxe back to his old ministry, which means this decidedly sensitive issue is now firmly on his plate.

By coincidence, or perhaps not, given the present strains, the steamy saga involving *commissaire* Yves Jobic of the capital's first district has just taken a new turn.

As *The Times* reported last month, the jailing of M Jobic on suspicion of his being a pimp resulted from a feud between the national police and France's paramilitary gendarmerie.

Since then the youthful M Jobic, known to colleagues as "Superfluc" for the zeal with which he pursued prostitutes, pimps and drug pushers on his patch, has been released pending further investigation.

There was rejoicing among the police until a couple of days ago *Le Monde* published a well documented story on *l'affaire Jobic*.

Drawing on what appear to be transcripts of tapped telephone calls between the *commissaire* and an informer from the red light zone round the Rue de Budapest, plus extensive access to sworn statements from certain ladies of the night, such as Zouzou, who claim to have paid M Jobic protection money. It did not exactly burnish the accused officer's outstanding reputation.

However, at the Ministry of the Interior, wary officials indicated that yet another list of promotions is being prepared while the judgement of the tribunal is thoroughly reviewed.

Martens acts to end Belgium's war of words

From Michael Dynes, Brussels



Mr Martens: Budget woes complicating reforms.

The five-party coalition Government of Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, is to start work soon on constitutional reforms aimed at lessening tensions between the country's two linguistic communities by granting them a degree of autonomy.

Last Friday the Senate approved the first phase of Mr Martens's federalization plan, under which jurisdiction of almost 50 per cent of public funds will be handed over to French-speaking Wallonia, Flemish-speaking Flanders and bilingual Brussels.

The three regions will exercise control over education, economic policy, public works, and research and

development in an effort to neutralize their historic antagonism.

Communal tensions have become increasingly acute during the past decade as Wallonia, dependent on traditional industries, has suffered a severe economic decline, while Flanders, largely because of a flexible workforce and a favourable geographical location, has witnessed an economic upturn.

The next phase of federalization, due later this year, is designed to allocate the public funds needed to give effect to regional autonomy. Friction over who gets what portion of the national budget seems inevitable.

The final phase of the proposal, which will specify what powers the national Government will retain, and

introduce direct elections to regional parliaments, is not due until 1989, and is likely to face an extremely turbulent passage in Brussels.

Complicating the linguistic reforms is a pressing need to trim a further £745 million from next year's budget. The Government knuckled down yesterday to what is expected to be a week of potentially divisive negotiations on the budget.

Mr Martens, three months into his eighth coalition Government, says the budget deficit must be kept to its target of 7 per cent of gross national product. But the required cuts are expected to prompt argument within the coalition, which consists of Christian Democrats and Socialists from both the French and Flemish-speaking regions and

the Flemish nationalist People's Union. Recent tax reforms, however, may make left-wing critics toe the line. But difficulties could arise over the way in which the proposed public expenditure cuts might affect the spending powers of the regions following implementation of plans to make Belgium a federation.

Mr Martens's much-vaunted scheme to end regional rivalry has, according to local press accounts, been greeted with little more than indifference by Belgians. Some observers have already expressed grave doubts over whether the idea of a federal state has matured sufficiently to make the new powers being granted to the regions work in practice. Mr Martens leads the Flemish-speaking Christian Democrats.

Shuttle engine test boosts hopes of a launch in October

From Christopher Thomas, Cape Canaveral

An apparently flawless testing of the shuttle *Discovery*'s three main engines on its launch pad yesterday gave the space programme's morale a desperately needed boost, raising hopes for a launch late next month or, more likely, in October.

There were hoots of joy at the Kennedy Space Centre as the engines were fired on schedule, shaking the earth and sending up a huge cloud of white smoke.

The engines were ignited one by one until they were all firing together. The longest burn for 22 seconds, the shortest for 19½ seconds.

The triumph ended two demoralizing, humiliating weeks in which testing was postponed five times because of relatively minor technical hitches, further giving the impression that the shuttle programme was plagued by over-caution and self-doubt.

The computer-controlled firing was virtually a test rehearsal for a launch, although none of the crew was on board. The exercise tested new systems and modes of operation implemented since the Challenger exploded in January, 1986, killing all seven crew. The shuttle programme has been grounded ever since a presidential commission found a pattern of reckless risk-taking.

If anything, NASA management is now accused of having lost its nerve. The new rules have imposed an almost suffocating level of safety requirements. NASA officials concede that the *Discovery* launch must go without a hitch, otherwise the

future of manned space missions could be jeopardized. So far Congress has granted most of NASA's shuttle budget requests because public opinion remains strongly behind the programme, but another disaster would undoubtedly turn the tide.

There is a sense of urgency to show the shuttle's mettle. After every aborted test, there has been a scramble to fix the fault and reschedule the exercise quickly, to salvage some of the public relations damage.

Even though there were no apparent technical hitches yesterday, for a time just before dawn there was a palpable sense of despair when a storm started moving towards the area. Had rain fallen within five miles, the test would have been called off because of the danger from lightning.

Nasa engineers spent the night trying to locate a small hydrogen fuel-line leak, but failed. In the end they replaced seals and filters, hoping that the problem would be solved.

The real purpose of yesterday's exercise was not to put the engines through their paces, since they have been tested away from the launch pad already. The main aim was to test the software. During the firing, for example, the computers had to ignite each engine in a split-second sequence, and shut them down simultaneously.

Despite the triumph, NASA faces more technical hurdles before the launch. Engineers will begin soon to repair another leak, buried deep in the orbiter — the first time NASA has cut into the orbiter while on the launch pad.

Rumbling of dissent as Zimbabwe nears one-party state

From Jan Raath, Harare

As Zimbabwe edges closer to a one-party state, with opposition to the Government of President Mugabe tolerated less and less, democratic debate is ironically increasing.

Leading Zanu party members last week rejected a demand by backbench MPs for the Defence Minister to be suspended and a parliamentary inquiry into allegations of irregularities in the Transport Minister's handling of the national airline.

Since the signing of the agreement uniting Zanu with Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zapu party last December, Parliament has become essentially a one-party body with Zapu MPs sitting in the Cabinet and whites selected by Mr Mugabe to represent the white community's interests.

Discontent has been voiced before among members of Zanu but no matter how vicious the infighting in the central committee the maintenance of a united front remains paramount.

But the party merger, coupled with the absence of white MPs

loyal to Mr Ian Smith, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, appear to have ended the need for unquestioning party loyalty.

Mr Byron Hove, who is a businessman and a backbencher from the Zimbabwean midlands, started a controversy in early July when he called for the establishment of a select committee to investigate a financial and managerial crisis at Air Zimbabwe.

Mr Didymus Mutasa, the parliamentary Speaker, has frequently complained of the dreary standard of debate in the House, but was unprepared for Mr Hove.

He presented a well-researched case with detailed accounts, confidential documents and technical airline data to support his allegations of corruption and mismanagement in the airline, and of interference in its affairs by the Transport Minister, Mr Simbarashe Mumbengegwi.

The floodgates were opened and MPs launched vehement attacks on nearly every issue of policy and administration.

Mr Edgar Tekere, the popular former party secretary-general dis-

missed from the post in 1981, became the first senior party member to speak out against what Mr Mugabe calls "democratic centralism".

"I want to say here loud and clear that you can count on me to voice my opposition to a one-party state," he said.

It is not clear what support Mr Tekere will receive when the "democratic centralist" system becomes part of the Constitution in 1990, but students at the University of Zimbabwe have shown their support for him already. On July

17 about 300 demonstrated outside the South African trade mission in Harare to mark Nelson Mandela's birthday. Then they marched to Parliament, shouting their support for Mr Tekere.

Government critics have also attacked the leadership code — a document prescribing puritanical behaviour for party leaders and forbidding property ownership — beyond a modest home — and other capitalist indulgences. It is well known here that large slices of prime farm land and private sector businesses — off-licences, hotels,

night clubs and supermarkets — are owned by Cabinet ministers, Mr Mugabe being one of the very few beyond suspicion.

The code was adopted at the party's congress in 1985, but solid resistance to its implementation at Cabinet, Politburo and Central Committee level has kept it in limbo.

One of the code's critics, Mrs Angeline Tongogara — the widow of General Josiah Tongogara, the leader of Mr Mugabe's guerrilla army during the liberation war — told the upper house that the code should be scrapped — a call echoed repeatedly in the House of Assembly.

The policy of mass education, a cornerstone of the Government's "people-oriented" policies, has also come under attack. Dr Eddison Zvobgo, a former Politburo member and a minister who admits owning hotels, said it was time to realize that the system was producing "too many semi-literate children who ... roam the streets without any prospects of ever finding employment".

During the Air Zimbabwe de-

bate, Mr Enos Nkala, the beleaguered Defence Minister, threateningly asked to know how Mr Hove obtained his information and duty found himself the subject of a motion for suspension for intimidation.

The Speaker later said the motion had been expunged from the order paper because it had not been submitted in written form.

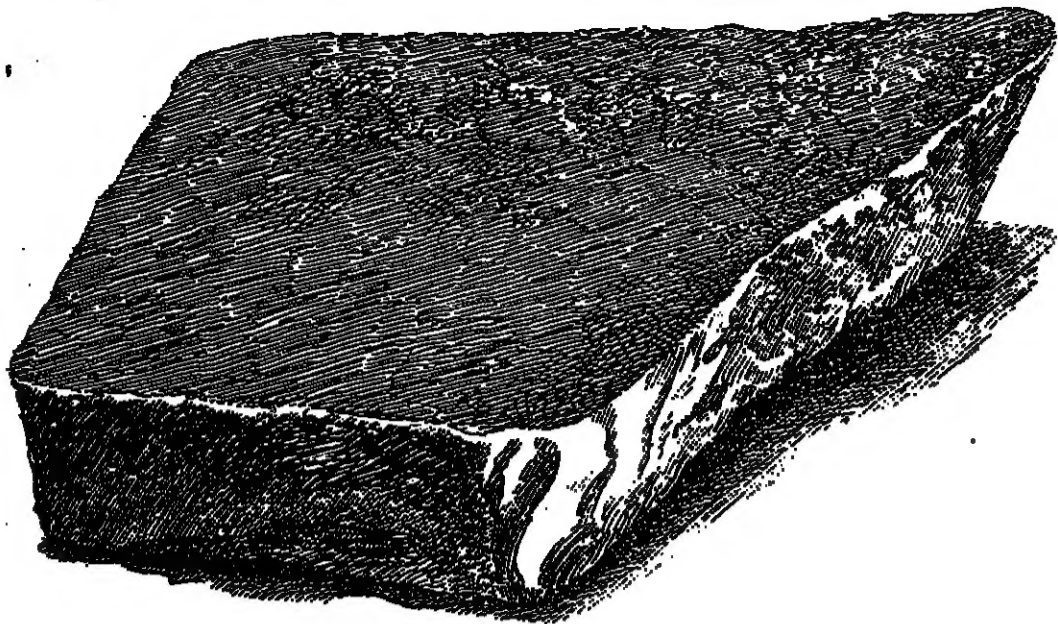
A call by Mr Mutasa for the committee of inquiry into Air Zimbabwe to be allowed to continue its investigation was rejected by the Speaker, who told the House: "Absolute freedom of speech cannot exist in any ordered society." The committee was later dissolved by unanimous vote, and the authority of Mr Mugabe's party chiefs re-established.

But the debate featured consistently on the front pages and was followed blow-by-blow in the crowded townships.

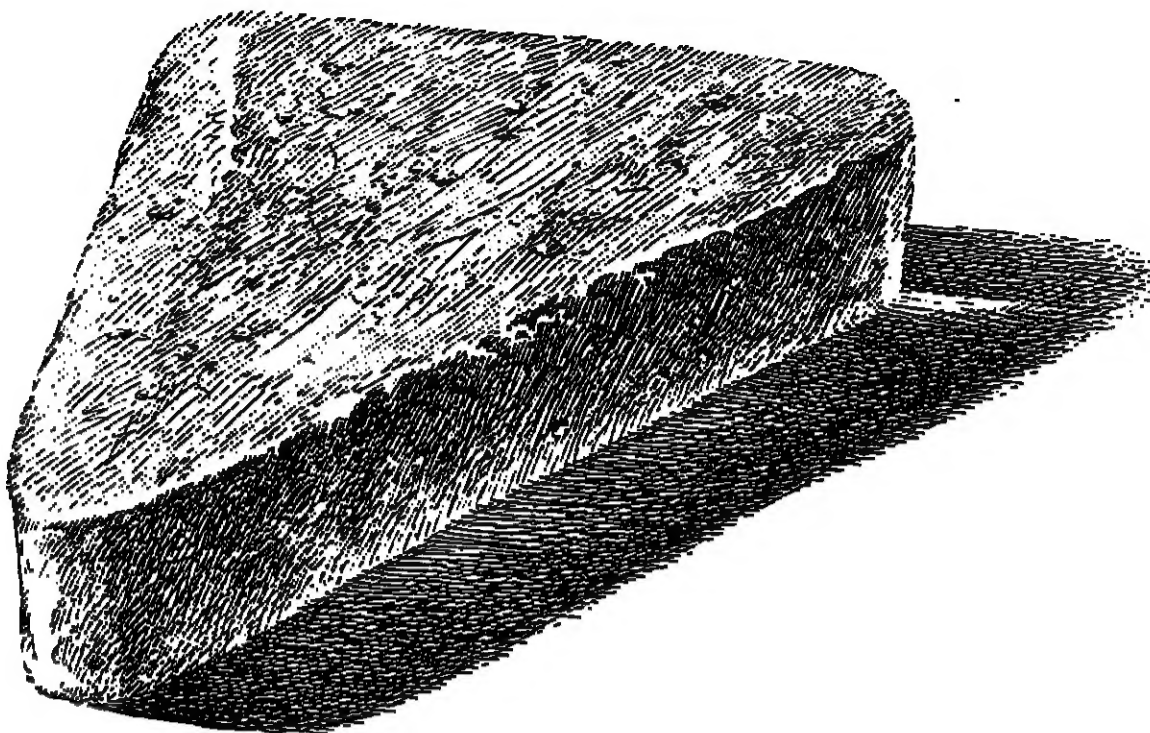
Mr Mugabe may regard the dissenting voices as dangerous, but others say they have witnessed a healthy whetting of appetites for free speech, economic reality and an end to official corruption.

court of Appeal
 rights
 the plaintiffs, and diminution
 the value of the remaining
 plots.
 The plaintiffs had not
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 parties that if the body of a
 party were buried in a place
 relation to which the plan-
 had exclusive rights it was
 probable that distress would
 be caused to the plaintiff.
 It was common ground
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 ment in litigation were
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 suffered considerable distress
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 Madon's burial, and the
 subsequent encroachment
 apart from the anxiety caused
 the action.
 Damages under that
 could not be quantified by
 process of valuation, but it
 would be done by an award
 of £750 for each plaintiff.
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 Solicitors: Marsh
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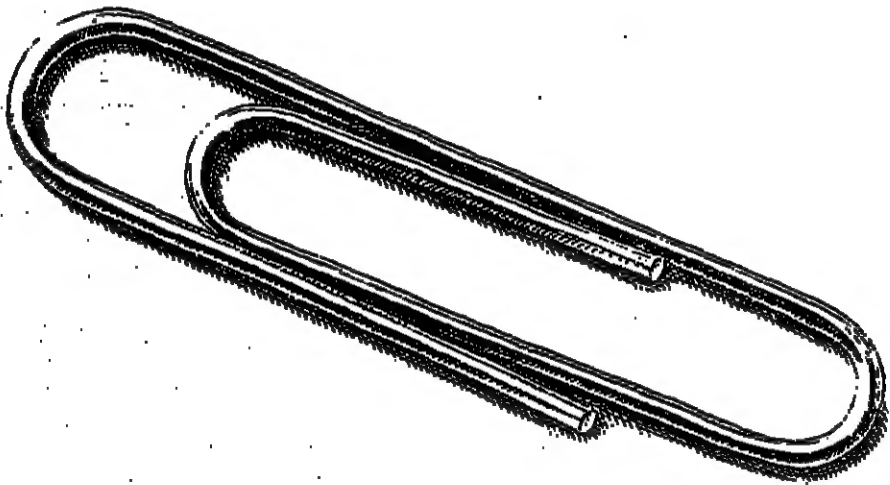
Using only these objects, try and win the Nobel Prize for Physics.



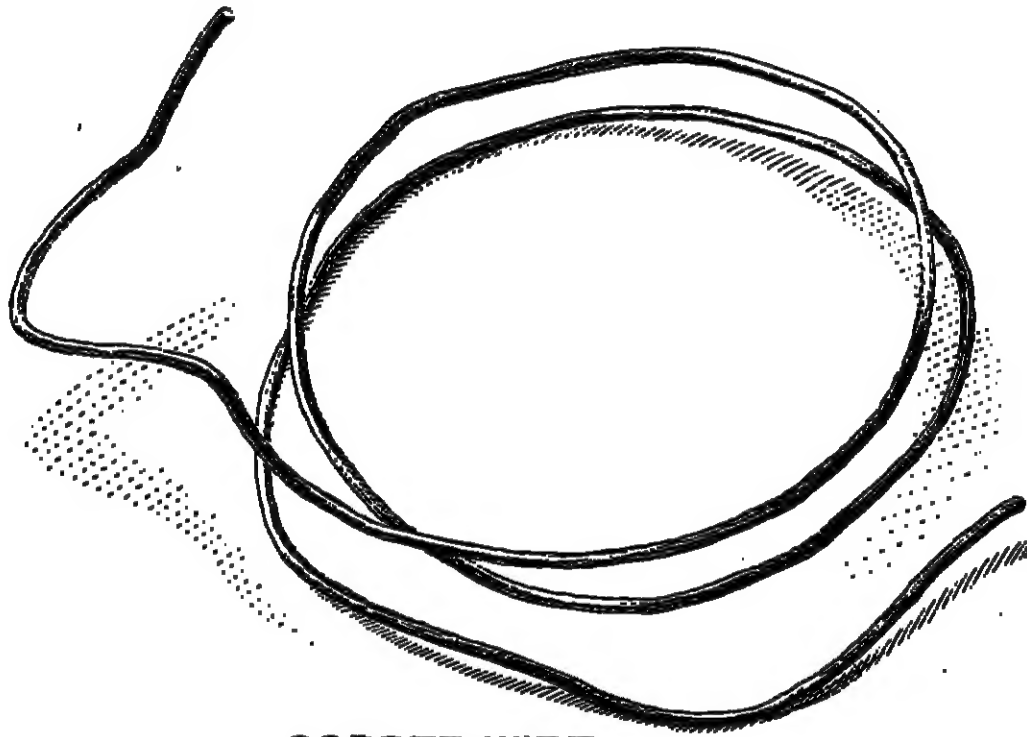
GERMANIUM



SILICON



A PAPER CLIP



COPPER WIRE

It seems remarkably simple with all the benefit of hindsight, but at AT&T Bell Laboratories in 1947 the three men who were experimenting with the properties of semiconductors knew that they were exploring a whole new world.

The breakthrough occurred when they finally isolated the transistor effect, a discovery that was to lead to a revolution in communications and to the Nobel Prize for the three inventors.

Without transistor technology the world would seem primitive today. Computers, space flight, electronic watches, everything to do with modern communications, and

even the electric guitar would not exist.

Today in Bracknell AT&T scientists are designing the microchips for computer and communications equipment, technology that depends on the miniaturisation made possible by transistors.

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Today, AT&T has co-operative ventures with over 100 nations. We've been working with British Telecom, and its predecessors,

for over 60 years.

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SPECTRUM

The Tate's new head might lack the scholastic eminence of his predecessors — but the job could have been made for him

Portrait of the young director

MARK ELLIOTT

The job may make the man, but the institution still makes the job. This is as true in the high reaches of the British art establishment as it is anywhere else in senior public administration. Once the man has got the job he might in due course recreate it in his own image, to the point of redefining the very terms of the post for which he applied.

We shall find out in the course of the next seven years whether this is the case with young Nicholas Serota and the directorship of the Tate Gallery. Job and man conjoin on September 1, and all the signs are that the one, as framed by the Civil Service Commission with rigorous specificity in its Press advertising last year, was made with the other in mind.

What the commission wanted and what the gallery craved at a critical point in its eccentric history was someone with not only a "deep and scholarly knowledge" of contemporary art, but also the flair to embark on "an important building project and major fundraising activities".

What they have got is the 41-year-old son of Lady Serota, in whose long habitation of great-and-good committees can be found a germ of his own desiderata. He comes wreathed in repute, both commercial and critical, from 12 years as director of the Whitechapel Art Gallery in east London, where he developed the same policy of committed internationalism that had already been in evidence during his days as an exceptionally young head of Oxford's Museum of Modern Art.

Serota seldom has the appearance of enjoying his work, although he is patently consumed by it. His is a dedication which at times can run to the point of mindlessness, an impression not dispelled by such badges of asceticism as the thin lips and rimless glasses. A hint of the *gauleiter* prompted one ill-wisher to dub him "Himmler's Nephew", but this has not stuck. His gallery was also once labelled a "joy-free zone", but this was in the context of a recent Epstein exhibition in which the critic sensed a fearful quarrel between the natural exuberance of the works and the constraining solemnity of their presentation.

THE TIMES PROFILE

NICHOLAS SEROTA

He is something of a paradox. On the one hand he is sufficiently young and without the usual corpus of published works to his name to raise eyebrows in the art world with the implied question, "But what has he done?" Certainly he cannot match the scholastic eminence enjoyed by his last three predecessors at the time of their appointment — Sir John Rothenstein (1938-64), Sir Norman Reid (1964-79) and Sir Alan Bowness (1980), the last of whom is well remembered by the 1970s generation of Courtauld Institute students for his vibrant lectures on the post-Impressionists.

On the other hand, closer students of the Tate succession were so convinced of his suitability for the job that the surprise would have been if he had been passed over by the gallery's board. And this despite the presence on the shortlist of Norman Rosenthal, exhibition organizer at the Royal Academy, Julian Spalding, director of Manchester City Art Galleries, and John Elderfield, director of prints and drawings at New York's Museum of Modern Art.

In one respect, Serota has

BIOGRAPHY

- 1946: Born, April 27. Educated Haberdashers' Askes School, Hampstead and Ely, Christ's College, Cambridge (BA). Courtauld Institute of Art, London (MA). Arts Council's Regional Art Officer and Exhibition Organizer (until 1973).
- 1973: Married Angela Mary Beveridge (two daughters). Became Director, Oxford Museum of Modern Art (until 1978).
- 1978: Director, Whitechapel Art Gallery, Member of British Council's Fine Arts Advisory Committee.
- 1983: Trustee, Public Art Development Trust.
- 1988: Director, Tate Gallery.

always been the Tate's sort of man: during his 11 years in the East End, his shopping list of modern painters has been remarkably similar to the Tate's own. Furthermore, he has formidably good connections, partly through background, partly through his close proximity to the City and partly through the simple fact of being on good terms with the elders of his peer group, including both Rosenthal and Bowness themselves. His wife Angela, with whom he has two daughters, is on the board of directors of the Ballet Rambert, and used to dance with the Royal Ballet.

His appointment to the Tate obviously removes the greyness from his eminence as no other appointment could; yet during the latter part of the Whitechapel years some critics and connoisseurs believed so firmly that he had come to preside over an international coterie of art dealers and like-minded young curators that they began to speak of Nick Serota's Private Dining Club. Go behind the scenes at the influential exhibitions in Europe and the United States, they said, then look at who is to be seen at the Whitechapel, and the same names crop up again and again.

Shortly after the announcement of his appointment last November, in a nice re-pointing of conventional economic wisdom, Serota said: "In my experience, money follows energy." It certainly did so at the Whitechapel, where he managed to raise £1.7 million for a widely praised extension to the gallery, and it will need to continue its pursuit if his dreams of "a post-1960 collection as good as any in the world" are to be realized.

For the Tate is in sore need of money, a running crisis best illustrated by its struggle — a successful one, in the end — to purchase one of the last privately-owned Constable paintings, "The Opening of Waterloo Bridge", for just under £3 million last year. The Tate had to scrape the last of the asking price together, thousands here and thousands there, from whatever sources it could find, private or public — the National Art Collections' Fund, the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the Clore Foundation, the



Made for the job at the Tate: Nicholas Serota with a work by Fernand Léger at a recent exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery

Friends of the Tate Gallery, and others.

The total value of the Tate's 2,060 paintings and 1,060 sculptures in the modern international collection, and its 1,880 paintings and 110 sculptures in the British one, is undisclosed. What is starkly documented in the gallery's financial projections, however, is that the entire purchase grant for the present financial year is only £1.8 million, less than the cost of that single Constable, and will remain unaltered for a further two years. This means that it is actually lower by £73,000 than it was in 1980/81.

If this job is to make the man, the man must make the money, for the Tate intends to expand during the next 10 years to a size that will increase its area to nearly twice what it was in 1979. Estimated cost: £34 million.

Already the Clore Gallery, housing the Turner Bequest, is in place, as is the most northerly part of its realm, the gallery's new premises, the Tate of the North at Liverpool's docks. The next stages, using the adjacent site of the Queen Alexandra Military Hos-

pital, will be a museum of 20th century art, another for sculpture, and a third for new art, eventually allowing the main building to be released for an historical British collection.

That is the prospect over which Serota is about to preside, with his staff of more than 400 and his salary of £34,000, rising annually in Civil Service increments to £35,500 and £37,000. On past form Serota will be tough rather than tyrannical. Dictatorial behaviour, or anything that smacks too strongly of the non-democratic, would go against his lurking liberal convictions. Artistically he

will innovate, if for no other reason than that the habit for doing so with commercial success has now become so engrained in him.

It is now 14 years since he staged the first exhibition of Joseph Beuys drawings in Oxford, and he is not about to become intimidated by a new Schnabel or a Kiefer. If someone points him in the direction of a pile of bricks, however, he will probably find himself evaluating it less for its aesthetic merit than for its building potential.

Alan Franks

Two faces of the killer pest that plagued the world

The plague epidemics that have punctuated human history may be caused by just two very small genetic mutations in bacteria as they evolve in response to the changing populations of their human hosts.

The plague first appeared in Europe in the 6th century, but the first well-documented epidemic was the "Black Death" of 1347-51, in which one in four Europeans perished — a total of 25 million people, according to some estimates. The initially harmless bacteria harboured in rats turned deadly, killing both rats and humans before vanishing. This virulent form is believed to have originated in Central Asia, transported via the Black Sea to Europe by Genoese merchantmen.

The Great Plague of 1664-5 was the next sudden epidemic, killing millions of people all

over Europe before disappearing just as quickly. Its sudden disappearance from London may not have been a result of the Great Fire of 1666, as commonly believed. The third and last major epidemic started in China in 1855 and by 1922 was claiming lives worldwide. Working in the thick of plague-stricken Hong Kong in 1894, when 100,000 citizens of nearby Canton died, the Swiss bacteriologist Alexandre Yersin isolated the plague bacterium. His discovery lives on in the organism's scientific name, *Yersinia pestis*.

Hans Wolf-Watz, of the University of Umea in Sweden, and his colleagues Roland Rosqvist and Mikael Skurnik, report in *Nature* this week a genetic explanation of the plague cycle. In their work with *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis*, a bacterium which is different from the plague

SCIENCE REPORT

bacterium only in that it is less virulent, they found that by making two small genetic mutations the bacteria became a 100 times more virulent. These mutations occur naturally in the virulent plague bacteria. The mutant genes cannot make two different proteins which normally allow *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis* bacteria to infect cells. In the absence of these proteins, the bacteria become much more potent killers through other, as yet unknown, means.

But mutations alone cannot drive an epidemic. Richard Lenski of the University of California, writing in this week's *Nature*, describes the influence of evolutionary changes on the plague

cycle. Whether a bacterium is virulent or not reflects the need to maximize its rate of transmission while not killing too many of its hosts, because killing the host can also spell death for the bacterium.

In crowded cities, natural selection favours virulent strains of the disease because it spreads so easily that the loss to the bacterial population when infected people die is negligible. This high-risk strategy pays dividends in densely populated areas and was especially effective in the unsanitary conditions of medieval cities and trading ports, when people lived in close proximity with plague-carrying rats.

However, virulence does not further bacterial progress in sparsely-populated areas because the bacteria die with their victims. In these conditions

natural selection favours bacteria that spread slowly.

If, as the new research shows, all that separates virulence and non-virulence is a simple mutation, the bacteria can adapt to the behaviour of their hosts very flexibly.

This might explain why plagues appear in dense groups of people, exploiting human migrations along trade routes or in times of war, and then subside very quickly when their work is done. But the bacteria do not disappear; they mutate back into their former non-virulent form and simply slip quietly into the shadows to await their next pestilent opportunity.

Henry Gee

© Nature-Times News Service 1988

SEEING IS A COLD WET NOSE

Today Guide Dogs are helping some 4,000 blind people to lead more independent lives

The Association needs your donation towards breeding, training and supporting an ever-increasing number of these loyal creatures and their blind owners. If you help us, there are just some of the ways we put your money to good use:

- £5 helps to keep a Guide Dog for a week.
- £10 pays for his leash, collar and chain.
- £25 is the cost of the harness.
- £250 helps to rear a puppy.
- £500 gives basic training.
- £1000 sponsors a Guide Dog.

There are considerable additional calls on our resources. We fund projects as diverse as seeking a cure for the osteochondritis that attacks the leg joints of many dogs, researching elderly blindness and the provision of holiday and sheltered accommodation for Guide Dog owners.

For many people in this country seeing is a cold wet nose. Please become a friend of Guide Dogs and help us provide more eyes and continue our other vital work.



THE GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND ASSOCIATION, ALEXANDRA HOUSE, 9 PARK STREET, WINDSOR, BERKSHIRE SL4 1JR. TEL: 0753 855711

I would like to become a Friend of Guide Dogs.

☐ Enclosed my donation for £.....

☐ Please charge my Access/Visa Card No.

☐ Please send details of making a contribution in your local area.

☐ Please send more information about your work.

Name Signature Postcode TT

Address TT



Donations can help meditation

A Buddhist group has bought a mansion for £6 million. Where does the money come from?

The Buddhist order which has just paid £6 million for a country mansion in Buckinghamshire has the highest profile of the hundreds of Buddhist movements in Britain. With members like singers Tina Turner and Sandie Shaw, designer Jeff Banks, actor Patrick Duffy and Lynne Franks (whose public relations organization was sold recently for £2.6 million), the Nichiren Shoshu movement tends to be frowned upon by its less affluent counterparts.

While many of the other movements rely on donations, Nichiren Shoshu was able to call upon its parent order in Japan (which has some 15 million members) to lend it the money to buy Taplow Court from Plessey, plus another £2 million to restore the Tudor mansion.

By comparison, the London branch of the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order, with perhaps 4,500 members, and 20 centres around the country, operates from a converted fire station in Bethnal Green, in London's East End.

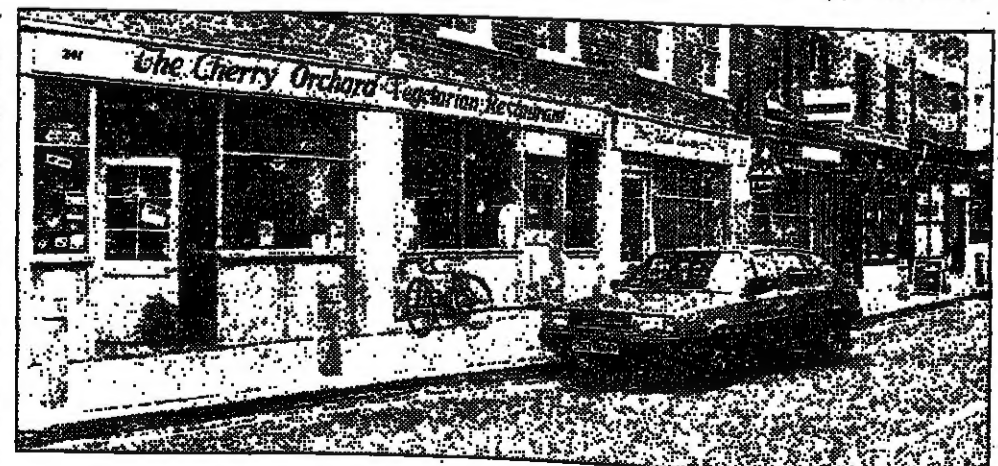
The attraction of Nichiren Shoshu — compared by one expert, in its original form, to a mixture of Christian Fun-

damentalism and Jehovah's Witnesses — seems to be the few demands it makes upon its followers. In the words of its general director, Richard Causton, aged 68, a former tobacco company managing director: "It is not a retreating form of Buddhism. It is practical in the sense that you don't have to eat or dress in a particular way or have to meditate in a particular place. You can fit it into your everyday life."

In Britain, it depends on donations from its members and income from its monthly magazine (a pound a copy) and its various publications. Its net income last year was £233,000, of which half was donated. Its previous headquarters in Blackheath, south-east London, was valued at just over £1.4 million pounds.



Above: Taplow Court, bought this summer by the Nichiren Shoshu movement for £6 million. Below: shops of the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order in Globe Road, east London



Croydon — has an annual turnover of half a million pounds, of which £70,000 is profit. There is also an import-export business which includes Harrods among its customers. The London branch's annual turnover for last year was £126,000 and its assets of £370,518 included freehold buildings to the value of £258,626.

Since Buddhism is based upon a non-materialistic approach to life, the open encouragement of donations is frowned upon. According to the Venerable Sangha Rakshita (born Dennis Lingwood of Tooting, south-

west London) who founded the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order 21 years ago this year, "nearly all the other groups rely upon charity but from the very beginning, I felt we should try to be self-supporting."

In order to deter their famous members from giving without suitable consideration, Nichiren Shoshu accepts donations only on certain days of the year. "One of the fundamental beliefs of Buddhism is the existence of the law of cause and effect," Causton says. "So while a spontaneous gift will

have a beneficial effect on the giver's life, a donation given resentfully or through duty will not."

Once Taplow Court has had its facelift, the movement hopes that it will be self-supporting as an international cultural centre. Traditional Buddhists, however, feel that Nichiren Shoshu promises too much, too soon. "Most people don't like to have to work too hard," says Stephen Hodge, a lecturer at the London Buddhist Society, "but there are no instant results in spiritual matters."

Sally Brompton

هكذا من الأهل

HEALTH

هكذا من الحيل

Sickness in the bricks

If you feel ill perhaps your office needs a doctor. Victoria McKee reports

The contemporary office block looks light-years away from the dark, satanic mills of the past, but its effect on the health of those who work within it may be as insidious. Sick Building Syndrome is an ailment of the 1980s, though many would argue that it is all in the mind.

But to sufferers and their companies the symptoms are all too real: sore throats, headaches, stuffy noses and a debilitating lethargy that gets worse towards the end of the day. Absenteeism is rife, morale low and productivity stunted. SBS, its sufferers allege, is costing Britain millions of pounds a day.

Edwina Currie, it is rumoured, could not wait to retreat to Whitehall from the Department of Health's "sick" headquarters in Elephant & Castle. Admits a Health Department mole: "It was too hot in summer, too cold in winter, we always felt dreadful and all of us were desperate to get out."

That's a pretty ghastly building, I continually get reports about it," says Steena Wilson, founder of the Building Use Studies consultancy and author of a two-part *Office Environment Study and Premises of Excellence* (£35). "So was the Public Record Building."

The air conditioning system was blamed when the Public Record Office at Kew was closed for 10 weeks in 1984. Staff working in the £7 million building, opened in 1977, had complained of an influenza-like illness. After £100,000 was spent on disinfecting the air conditioning, the Health and Safety Executive certified the building safe for use.

Wilson has surveyed some 4,500 office workers across a random cross-section of buildings to see whether SBS was more than a malingering's excuse. Her diagnosis is a warning for British businesses.

"It's a phenomenon of 20th-century office blocks with sealed skins and mechanical services," she asserts. "Hermetically sealed

buildings of glass and concrete aren't porous like traditional building materials."

That, she says, coupled with often unserviced, old air-conditioning systems, computer screens, flickering fluorescent lights, omnipresent office chemicals (from photocopying liquid to correction fluid), the dust that settles in carpets and soft furnishings and the germs which stagnate in the closed environment, can cause a plague of staff infection.

"One person catches a cold and everyone goes down like ninepins," Wilson says. The worst, she claims, are buildings outside London. In the capital, high rents lead to higher standards.

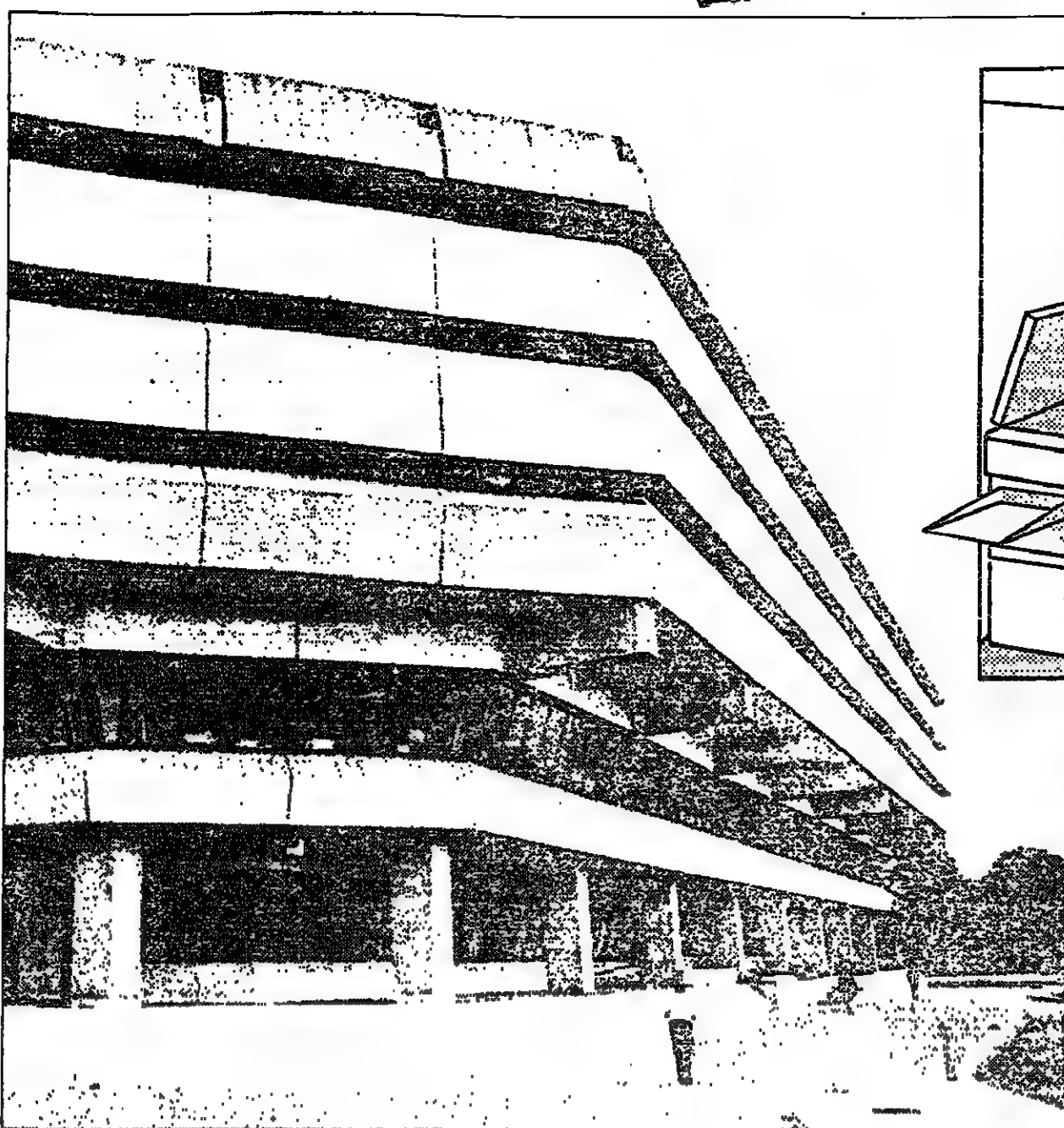
Air-conditioning is considered the major culprit, whether it serves to spread Legionnaire's Disease (as at Broadcasting House recently) or less unusual complaints. "Miles of pipes can fill up with gunge, while dust builds up in little mountains and is blown into the office in gusts," Wilson says.

She blames the original design of most systems and "ventilations rules which were established in the 1950s, based on body odour."

Wilson this week attended a conference on Legionnaire's Disease at the London School of Hygiene, where she was "amazed to discover how similar its causes seem to be to those of SBS."

Dr Colin Furnell, senior lecturer in occupational hygiene at the London School of Hygiene, says that SBS is caused almost exclusively by poor ventilation and improper maintenance of ventilation systems. He feels Legionnaire's Disease can be easily controlled by proper design and maintenance, but "SBS is more complicated because it is a result of a number of inter-related problems including management attitudes."

The potential problem from certain types of photocopying machines lies in the ozone they give off which - if they are in a poorly ventilated area, and with-



Site of sickness: the Public Record Office at Kew, closed for 10 weeks in 1984; inset, some of the alleged causes of SBS

out charcoal "scrubber" units to convert it - can build up and cause headaches."

Wilson believes it is important to differentiate between the SBS in buildings dating from the 1960s and 1970s, and those built in the 1980s. "New building syndrome comes from the high 'fleece index' soft furnishings and from the chemicals and dirt from the building process that don't get out of the system."

"One company had a sophisticated lighting system and some people were literally sitting in darkness because the life of the lamp had been so greatly extended," Halogen and fluorescent lights, she explains, "fade and flicker. The managing director was complaining of headaches; his office had such strong tinted glass that only 17 per cent of natural light came through."

Her blueprint for a healthy building includes: windows that

are able to ventilate and let in natural light; high ceilings to help combat heat build-up; well-diffused artificial light; reliance on fresh air or simple mechanical (ducted) ventilation; and ergonomically designed VDU screens to reduce glare.

Mick Humphrey, sales manager for OzonAir, air-conditioning suppliers to the Houses of Parliament, the NatWest Tower and the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, stresses that "absolute filters" are available - at £300 a piece - and in use in operating theatres, computer clean rooms and nuclear power stations.

"But they're considered too expensive for normal office use, when you can pay £5 for a panel filter." He condemns companies often willing to lash out "a quarter of a million pounds on an air-handling unit and then not maintain it."

Restokil - called in to tackle the BBC's infected cooling towers and disinfect some ductwork at

the Great Ormond Street Hospital - confirms business is booming in environmental services.

Dave Butcher, chairman and founder of the Association of Facility Managers, is head of Premises Operation for BBC television. "I wasn't responsible for Portland Place," he insists to assure - but he did have to deal with asbestos in the White City studios a few months ago. "I hate the term SBS," he says. "Problems can come from a sheer lack of motivation in the workforce - redundancy threats, low morale for other reasons. A lot of modern, air-conditioned buildings have no sickness at all."

But Butcher is pleased about what he calls "heightened awareness of the building as an environment". "Facilities management should be handled by a professional. So far people have just tumbled in from different areas of experience, but we're working with Strathclyde University provide degree-level courses, and

we run conferences and seminars." A good facilities manager, he feels, "can save a company a good deal of sick pay."

Wilson cites the IBM South Bank marketing centre as an example of a thriving healthy building with good ventilation, carefully designed space.

Designed by Sir Denys Lasdun and opened in 1983, it has sunscreens, blinds, carefully maintained air conditioning with a 20 per cent fresh air content and regular checks by independent analysts, lighting tubes changed every two years and ergonomically designed chairs for all its thousand-plus staff.

Dr Bill Wolverton, who works for America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration and is currently researching how houseplants "can create a complete ecological life support system for a space system", has produced some short-term spin-offs already being hailed as an

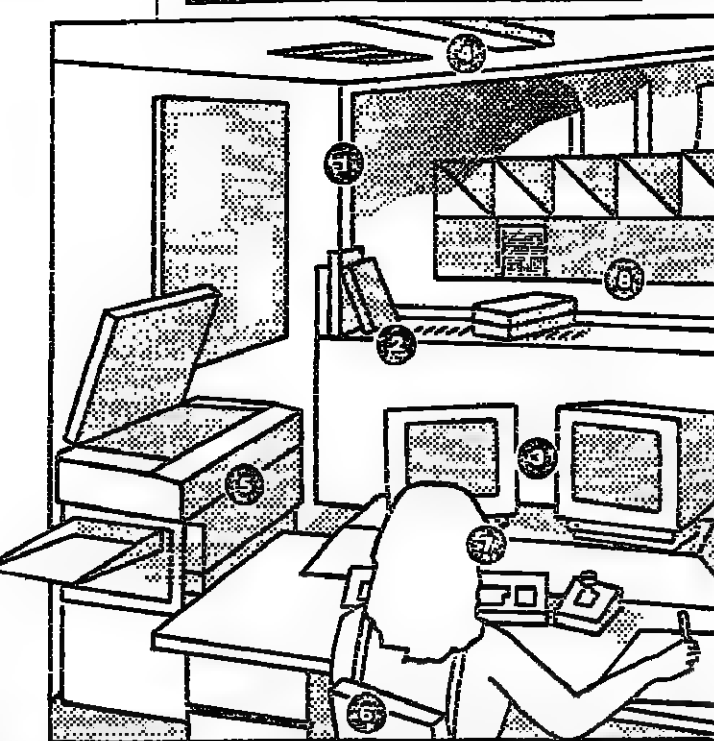
antidote to SBS in the US.

Plants, he discovered, keep the environment healthier by absorbing toxic substances in the air. The green spider plant has proved most effective at getting rid of carbon monoxide, the philodendron at absorbing formaldehyde - from particle board panelling and carpet backing and which is said to cause allergic, flu-like reactions - and species of daisy and chrysanthemum counteract benzene from office solvents and some types of felt-tip pen.

Curiously, he notes that one of the "sickest" buildings in the US is the Environmental Protection Agency's headquarters in Washington, DC. Wilson has sent the American EPA a copy of her report. But she is not convinced of the efficacy of plants in combatting SBS: "I've seen a lot of offices with sick plants in them."

Office Environment Study (in two parts, £95) and Premises of Excellence (£35), both by Steena Wilson, from BUIS, 14-16 Stephen Way, London N11

WHAT MAKES A BUILDING SICK?



1. Hermetically sealed buildings of glass and concrete reduce the occupants' necessary sense of contact with the outside and can result in depression
2. Unserviced, archaic air-conditioning systems, implicated in poor ventilation and build-up of internal pollution
3. Positioning of computer screens, ideally with a window to the left, never in front of or behind the screen, which should be flat and preferably in black and white
4. Flickering fluorescent lights. Halogen and fluorescent fade and flicker so that light may decrease gradually to levels which will induce eyestrain leading to headaches and tiredness
5. Chemicals from office equipment, modern building materials and furniture. Experts suggest that amount of chemicals in the office atmosphere are increasing and that ventilation rates should be similarly increased
6. Carpets and soft furnishings trap dust and possibly act as a breeding ground for micro-organisms
7. Human germs can stagnate or circulate in a closed environment, and some air-conditioning can distribute infections when present
8. Strongly tinted glass can decrease natural light and distort "outside awareness" (see 1)

A safe pair of gloves

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

The late Lord Moylman, grandfather of Colin, Minister of Sport, and Antony, the bongo drum playing peer who has been named in connection with the Howard Marks drug scandal, has been credited in recent profiles with popularizing the use of surgical gloves. His role may have been exaggerated, because they were introduced in the 1880s and were well established by 1910. The gloves have saved many a stormy, infected convalescence, and hence countless lives, but their use is not without problems. Protection is two-way: doctors can also examine patients without fearing that the weekend's scratch from pruzzing noses might serve as the portal entry for a lethal streptococcus or HIV.



At work: gloves on

In order that a close fitting glove which allows maximum sensitivity can be easily slipped on, they have to be lubricated on the inside. Initially talc powder was used until research showed that tiny talc particles scattered in the wound occasionally caused a severe inflammatory tissue reaction which could lead to the formation of granuloma (a benign tumour) or peritonitis with intestinal adhesions.

In the late 1940s starch, with small absorbable grains was substituted for the talc with improved results but even so, statistics from New York's Mayo Clinic show that approximately one in a thousand patients who have had abdominal surgery suffer

a reaction from starch from the surgeon's glove, or dropped into the wound from the sleeves of his gown.

Five years ago two American cousins, an engineer and an eye surgeon, developed as a spin-off from their research on contact lenses a starch-free lubricated glove. The patent of the process was sold to a British company. Their introduction should have seen the end of the potentially lethal tissue reaction to starch, but it has not: only 35 per cent of surgeons use them, the others remain faithful to the starch-dusted gloves, either because the hospital authorities are unwilling to pay the small extra cost involved, or because the surgeon has grown accustomed to their feel.

Guzzling to slim

Envious slimmers were intrigued and mystified by reports that acting Hannah Darryl (of *Wall Street* and *Roxanne* fame) and Page (Shag) grew thinner and thinner the more they ate. Apparently their decline was halted only by the consumption of large quantities of bananas supplemented by other potassium-rich foods. To older doctors it was reminiscent of the war years, when children with coeliac disease, gluten enteropathy, were given almost unobtainable bananas so that while their contemporaries made do with dried egg and Woolton pie, coeliacs guzzled bananas and cream. Coeliac disease is a hereditary, chronic malabsorption disorder resulting from an intolerance of the wheat protein gluten. It is noteworthy that Hannah is an Irish name, for the disorder is 15 times more common among the Irish than it is, for instance, among Americans. Children with coeliac disease fail to thrive, have chronic diarrhoea and other associated abdominal symptoms. These symptoms often fade in adolescence, only to reappear some time after the age of 25. Adult coeliac disease manifests itself with the same intestinal symptoms, weight loss and fluid retention; special tests would show a low blood potassium and a characteristic change in the

lining of the small intestine. If a patient with undiagnosed coeliac disease, in an attempt to put on weight, ate large quantities of food containing wheat flour their symptoms would worsen and weight would be lost. If coeliac disease is the cause of the sisters' trouble they should not despair. A large variety of food prepared without wheat flour is now available; the days when it was bananas or starve went out with the Marshall Plan.

In a lather

Doctors have long been aware that it is possible to culture bacteria from a contaminated bar of soap. Many take the precaution of washing their hands, particularly if the colleague ahead of them has been carrying out some intimate examination or procedure, or even if the person before them in the hotel cloakroom queue looks particularly unhealthy. The British Medical Journal carries the good news that a recent report in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Infection* of a research project, carried out with volunteers has shown that any organisms found on the soap are not transferred to people later washing their hands with it; even if the soap had been artificially inoculated with a heavy growth of bacteria. Shared soap is therefore safe.

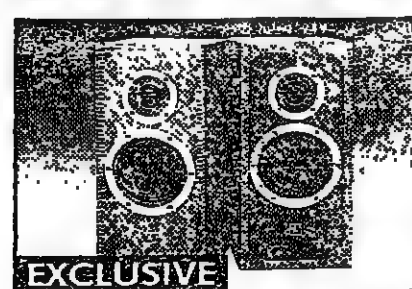
Needle fears

The London Hospital's Whitechapel clinic, one of the busiest centres in the capital for treating sexually transmitted diseases, recently opened an extension which will provide, among its other facilities, the greater space needed for consultations with HIV positive patients. The extension, paid for by private donations and named after Graham Hayton, one of the founders of the self-help group Frontiers, is likely to be well patronized. Quite apart from the increasing numbers of HIV positive patients in the community as a whole, a recent anonymous testing of people attending the drug dependency unit at the London Hospital showed that 11 per cent were positive. Dr Edward Barakat, the doctor in the drugs unit, is worried that although a needle exchange scheme (whereby drug abusers trade in dirty needles for clean ones) has been approved in principle, money has not been made available for the scheme, one of the few ways that the spread of AIDS can be slowed. Barakat is particularly alarmed that the authorities seem unaware that the habit of injecting drugs is spreading; no longer is it just heroin, but now also temazepam, snowball (a mixture of cocaine and heroin), cocaine and amphetamines. Whatever the drug used, a dirty shared needle may harbour HIV.

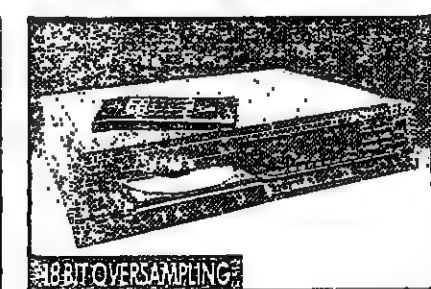
Ladies in weighting

It would not be in Mr Anthony Kenney's style to have appeared alarmed when the pregnant Duchess of York travelled to America or hurtled down the ski slopes, but it is likely that his feelings were more of resignation to the inevitability of these expeditions than of approval. His anxieties would have been concentrated on the possibility of miscarriage or premature delivery, complications more likely in a patient who has had troubles in conceiving. A possible, less important, sequel of this activity may be a slightly smaller baby than usual for the Royal Family, or indeed for Debut's entrants in general. The average weight of full-term babies bears a statistical relationship to the social class of the mother, and the new princess's weight, 6lb 12oz, is even fractionally below the national average of about 7lb 4oz. Although a mother's diet is a factor determining the weight of the baby, of greater importance is thought to be the opportunity higher income groups have of taking plenty of rest; for while resting, the placental circulation improves and with it the baby's supply of oxygen and other nourishment. The York's baby will soon catch up the missing ounces, which are unlikely to worry anybody, let alone the unflappable Mr Kenney.

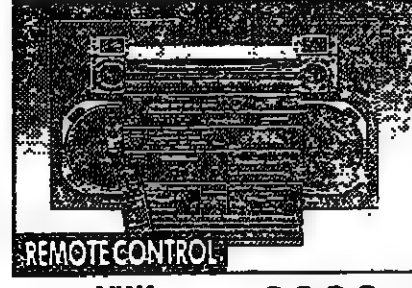
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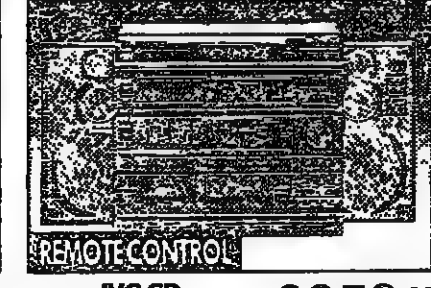
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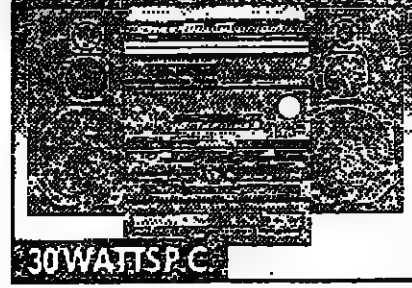
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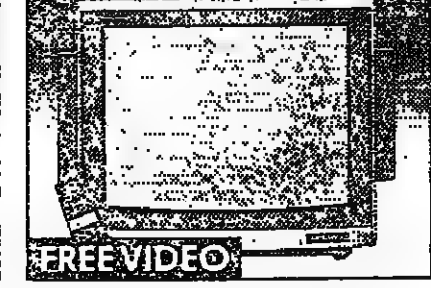
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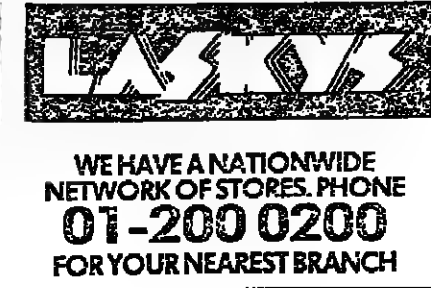
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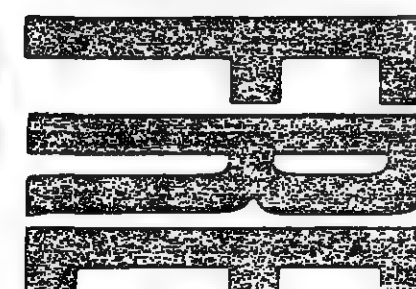


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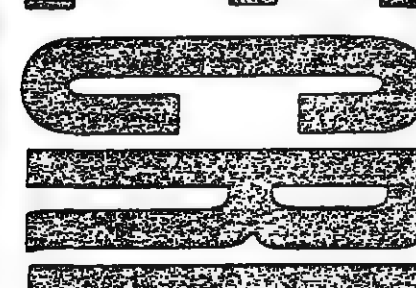


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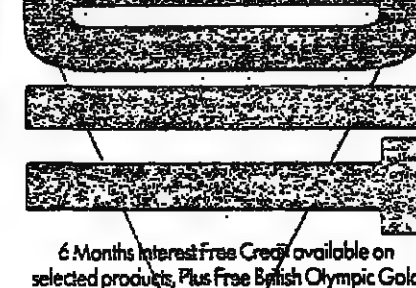
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TIMES DIARY

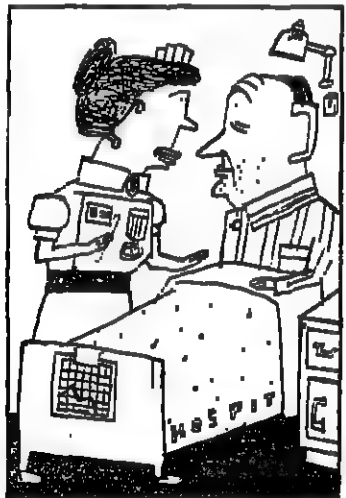
SHERIDAN MORLEY

Home from the Punch office for a few days trying to finish a long-overdue biography of James Mason, and miserably failing to challenge Sir Clement Freud's record of 35,000 words a week, as recently claimed by the old speedster in this space. I find myself lurching blindly away from the desk at night to watch television. This is something I seldom get to see during the week: indeed one of the joys of being a drama critic these last two decades has been a total unfamiliarity with everything from *Coronation Street* to *Brookside* by way of *Crossroads* and *Neighbours* and all known forms of sport, not to mention *Esther Rantzen*. Coming home late at night from theatres, I usually take my news from the Teletext captions and find it somewhat disconcerting to have it read aloud to me by Sir Alastair Burnet and a series of ladies I have only just begun to tell apart. What really worries me about Burnet is that when I used to write ITN bulletins for him in the early 1960s he was vastly older than me, and he now seems to be looking a lot younger.

But apart from the news, and the appalling discovery that my 12-year-old daughter can now find Australian soap-operas on the air before I've even made breakfast, there seems to be a quite remarkable absence of anything on TV that you could actually watch. Back in the mid-Sixties, after I had left Sir Alastair and gone with Joan Bakewell to BBC2 for *Late Night Line Up*, a long-lost television arts programme which has happily now acquired a kind of nostalgia rating, we managed to find every night, even on August bank holiday weekends, at least one programme worth a major panel discussion; and that was with only three networks, none of which started much before evening. What would we be discussing now, except the David Mercer plays we discussed then?

Ms Thatcher's recent and unhappy experiences in Australian television studios and shopping precincts remind me that back in June, in this column, I noted with some amazement how difficult it is for a British citizen to get into a country I had vaguely still thought of as ours. Even for a holiday the Australians seem to require visas unheard of now in most of Europe or America if you have a British passport. That diary entry produced some of the most violent correspondence I have ever received, even as a drama critic, either from irate Britons announcing that Australians are lucky to have us going out there at all and should certainly not demand paperwork, or else from equally irate Australians pointing out that we impose passport and import restrictions on them while being apparently far more open to such foreigners as our Common Market neighbours. One lady wrote to me from New Zealand to say that it was all to do with lamb quotas, and the English were soon unlikely to be allowed into Auckland at all.

BARRY FANTONI



'Bad news, I'm afraid. My pay rise has had a relapse.'

Having cherished since about 1950 a deep religious horror of all technological innovations, largely because I was the only boy in my prep-school class who could never work the cartridges that some idiot invented to replace perfectly good bottles of ink for filling fountain pens, I have viewed with increasing alarm the ghastly march of word-processors across the offices of all my friends and even into some of their private homes, where those useless screens never seem to show any programmes remotely worth watching.

I have therefore gone from a typewriter to a felt-tip pen, in the hope that if enough people follow suit we might get back to sensible arrangements like quills and adding things up on the back of envelopes. Though I do have to acknowledge some post-war inventions for which I have a sneaking regard. One is the video recorder, without which one could not have nearly so many family rows about what not to watch, as there would be a vastly reduced choice.

Another is the Fax machine, which means that really boring information can now be transmitted instantaneously across the world, whereas in the old days you had to wait weeks for it. I have only just discovered to my amazement that a Fax will take handwriting: I thought you had to type everything out before sticking the paper into that amazing little box thing; but my Australian brother, never one to waste energy, just scrawls notes in his own hand and they are as unreadable when they arrive instantly here as when he wrote them there. Truly, technology is a wonderful thing.

While my younger daughter remains transfixed by the Australian soaps, my elder daughter has been EuroRailing her way around the continent for a month on one of those tickets that give you fifteen countries with about two nights in each. I should suppose be no longer amazed that at 18 she can get from Victoria Station to Greece by way of Amsterdam and Yugoslavia equipped with nothing more than a rucksack and my American Express card (only to be used in dire emergencies), and three strong schoolfriends for fending off unwanted attentions. Indeed, so far from worrying about her safety, the most I can manage is a faint embarrassment when remembering that, at the same age thirty summers ago, I thought a weekend at the Edinburgh festival the height of adult daring and independence.

Developments in the Soviet Union since the death of Brezhnev, and especially since the advent of Gorbachev's *perestroika*, shed a new light on what has become known as the Prague Spring.

Twenty years later, the Prague Spring has been historically vindicated: the power responsible for its brutal termination on August 21, 1968, has come to recognize that the only viable way out of its own crisis lies in the very direction pioneered 20 years ago by Czechoslovakia. In recent months both Prague and Moscow have tried, in official statements, to disavow the idea that there is any similarity between the Czechoslovak reform programme of 1968 and that being introduced in the Soviet Union today. The Prague leadership, which was installed by the occupying power to undo the Prague Spring and ensure that it never returned, has a vital interest in maintaining this fiction in order to preserve itself.

The Kremlin, which has so much to do at home and is anxious to prevent unrest along its borders, finds such pronouncements expedient, even though they fly in the face of reality, revive unpleasant memories of the past and cast doubt

on the depth of *glasnost*. But however loud the insistence that the 1968 Dubcek programme of democratization and Gorbachev's *perestroika* are quite different, this does not alter the fact that they are two phases of a single historic process.

They are two attempts in the long, hard struggle to do away with the socio-political system established by Stalin and bury it forever without provoking internal — or external — upheavals of catastrophic proportions.

That struggle, which has ebbed and flowed and taken various forms, has accompanied almost the whole history of Bolshevik power.

Its objective has remained basically the same: to find a feasible transition from a command system to a participatory one. In other words, it has sought to devise, introduce and establish a democratic alternative to the present political order — in which society is governed like a

Eduard Goldstücker says the Prague Spring flowers again

Vindicated — 20 years on

military unit on constant alert. All attempts to find such an alternative in the Soviet Union were nipped in the bud or ruthlessly suppressed. The only official initiative in this direction before the 1980s was taken by Khrushchev. His limited de-Stalinization drive was sabotaged and subverted.

Nevertheless, sporadic attempts — each stronger than the last — were made in the European countries which had found themselves in the Soviet orbit after the Second World War. Each attempt constituted a rebellion against the Stalinist system, which was felt to be alien to the traditions of the people and unresponsive to their needs.

The Stalinist system had been imposed (in co-operation with the respective local communist leaderships) on all countries of the Soviet Bloc in order to strengthen Moscow's grip, although it had long outlived its usefulness and become an ob-

stacle to progress in its country of origin. All manifestations of dissatisfaction, no matter how dissimilar they were in their specifics, had one thing in common: they arose from the people's demands for basic civil liberties, more individual and collective freedom, and more national autonomy.

The Prague Spring represented the most advanced stage of these sporadic outbreaks of dissatisfaction because it produced the first comprehensive blueprint both for the transition to a democratic socialist system and for the system itself.

A favourable combination of historical and social circumstances meant that Czechoslovakia was the only East European country able to produce such a plan and to have all the internal requisites for its realization.

In view of the persistent propaganda to the contrary, it must be reiterated that the

Prague Spring was initiated and controlled throughout by the Communist Party; that it followed socialist aims; that it was loyal to its allies even though they were conspiring against it; that it did not jeopardize the security interests either of the Soviet Union or any of its allies, and that none of Czechoslovakia's national institutions or the leadership of the Communist Party either invited or approved of the invasion of Czechoslovakia. None the less, on the fateful night of August 21, 1968, the so-called "creeping counter-revolution" (the term is a typical invention of East German propaganda) was stamped out by the soldiers and tanks giving uninvited "fraternal help", and a prostrate country still is like a prisoner recaptured.

To what effect? Present circumstances force those living in the time of *perestroika* to ask this question. Czechoslovakia

suffered incalculable damage by virtue of its defeat. But the Soviet Union's victory was largely pyrrhic.

The Brezhnev years are now being referred to officially in the Soviet Union as the age of stagnation; but the Kremlin's sense of relief goes back two decades, when Moscow did away with what it perceived to be a potential threat to its command system. This enhanced its feeling of self-satisfaction, induced it to rest on its laurels and gave a further substantial push to sweet idleness and corruption.

To what end indeed? All those who took part in the 1968 invasion are now facing a crisis which, whatever its immediate causes, derives ultimately from the Stalinist skeleton they all still have in their cupboards. In other words, their crisis stems from the same causes as Czechoslovakia's before the Prague Spring.

If Gorbachev succeeds in his present struggle, the invasion of Czechoslovakia 20 years ago will be recognized for the criminal error that it was.

The author was a member of the Czech National Council and President of the Writers' Union in 1968. He is now professor emeritus at the University of Sussex.

Tomorrow: Vaclav Havel

Bernard Levin

Spare parts for all models

With the correspondence columns still quivering from my last attempt to discuss life and death, I have to return to the subject on a parallel track. I must warn you first that the significance of the following story lies not in what it purports to reveal, but in the dreadful likelihood that you will not conclude that I am making it up.

A judge in Paraguay, ordering arrests, announced that seven babies, aged between three and six months, had been kidnapped in Brazil and were destined to the United States, where, investigators claimed, they were going to be killed to provide organs for transplant surgery; the cover story was that they were going to be adopted in America.

Judge Campos went on: "It's no fantasy. Imagine the son of a multi-millionaire gets kidney problems... The father isn't going to spare any effort in paying a millionaire sum for a fresh, new kidney... We began to get suspicious when we realized the supposed parents wanted any type of baby, even deformed..."

Now, you shudder. But did you dismiss the story as a hoax? I fear not: what is more, if the story does turn out to be entirely baseless (and there have been denials), you are likely to be relieved rather than contemptuous. But if the charges turn out to be true, let us first give thanks that the babies were saved; and then let us pause awhile, and think.

There is an American writer of popular fiction, Robin Cook, who specializes in medical horror-stories. He has written novels with such stark titles as *Come and Brain*, and one of his books tells precisely the same story as the Paraguayan judge did; it is set in a hospital where a group of doctors are killing patients to provide parts for transplants.

Mr Cook's success, though I grudge him none of it, is in itself disturbing in what it implies about the kind of fiction which is now acceptable in popular terms.

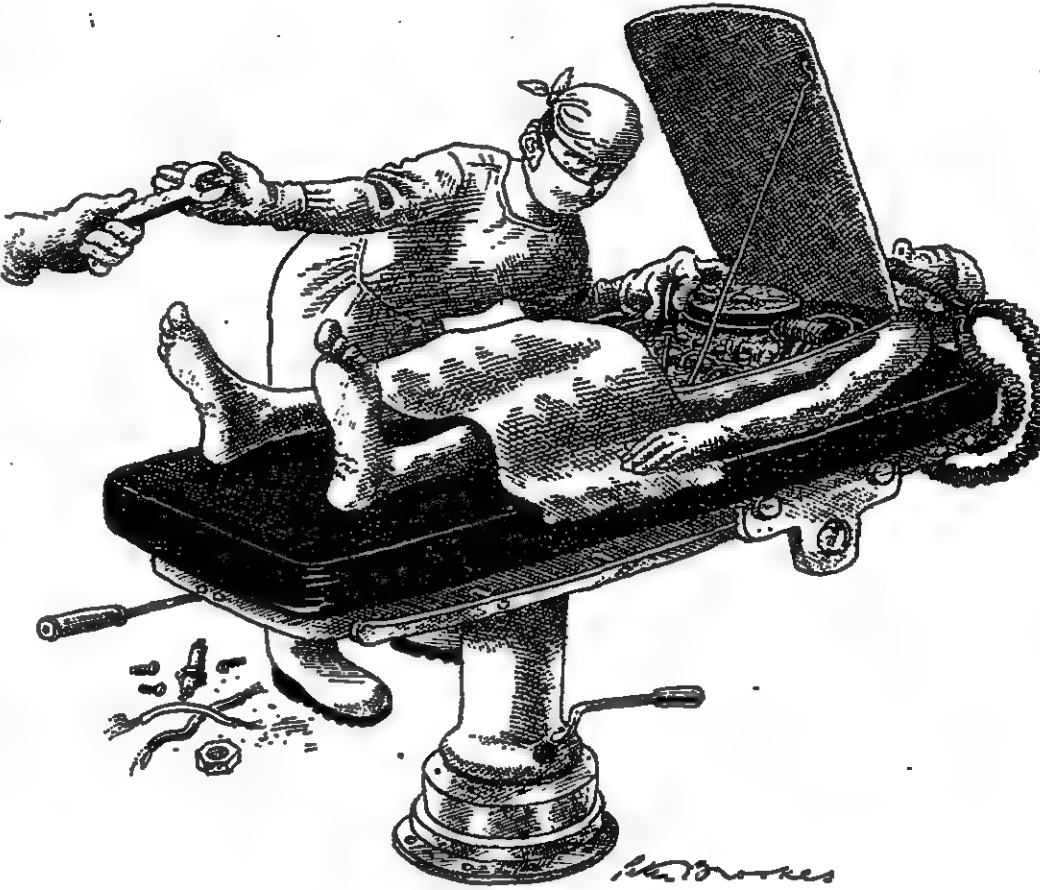
for the point of science-fiction is that however weird or extravagant the stories may be, the reader's suspension of disbelief must be total — if he throws the book aside, muttering "What nonsense", it has failed. But Mr Cook's stories do not fail.

In other words, whatever the revulsion provoked by the Paraguay story, and whether or not it is true, it is believable. But how far back do we have to go to reach the days when it would not have been believable? I can answer that question most precisely: November 1967. (Work it out.) Much more recent is the coinage "spare parts surgery", and more recent still "organ bank" (it was to an organ bank that the children, or bits of them, were to be sent).

Language is the best and most accurate index to a people's thought; the only objective test of the mind which uses it. You shudder at the details of the Paraguay case; why didn't you shudder when you came to those two phrases in quotation marks? Because what I have named The Fallacy of the Altered Standpoint is at work here.

Before the first heart transplant took place, in December 1967, to call the organs of a human body "spare parts" would have been thought simply disgusting, and the idea of an "organ bank" just mad; by the time such operations had ceased to be news, the Fallacy had injected its poison.

The reason I am, and shall always remain, implacably opposed to any legislation which would sanction euthanasia, is my knowledge and understanding of the way the Fallacy alters the Standpoint. Apart from a lunatic fringe, one or two of whom were sent to prison, the people who today seriously advocate euthanasia include some of the most scrupulous, law-venerating and humane figures you could hope to meet. I have no doubt that they would remain so if their aim was realized. But those who come after, particu-



larly the next generation, will not have the context and the understanding that the pioneers lived by, and the standpoint from which they will judge who should be allowed or helped to die will have been significantly altered. The real, and hideous, danger of the fallacy I have identified lies in the fact that its effect is to make that which was once unthinkable unremarkable.

Last week, we had the pig-kidney story. It is not my fault that the Paraguayan judge chose for his hypothetical millionaire's son one with a defective kidney. But the Fallacy insinuates itself into the most unlikely and unreciprocal quarters. Let us suppose that a patient is being kept "alive" on a ventilator, with the certainty that he can never be

more than a living corpse. What objection would you have if it becomes known that the machine is not going to be disconnected because many of his organs are in perfect condition, and can be removed, one by one, the ventilator keeping him going until he is of no more use to anybody? You would have no objection? Then the Fallacy has ensnared you. Do you know what is the term for the process by which two wrecked motor-cars or other machines are made into a single battered but serviceable one, by using the undamaged parts of each? The mechanic is said to have "canibalized" them. It is a harmless term, no doubt, yet it is a significant one, too.

There is, of course, an un-

bridgeable gulf between the team that wishes to change defective human kidneys for healthy pig's ones and the people in the Paraguay story. But where did the criminals get their ideas? I can tell you; first, transplants were astounding novelties; then, they were perfectly ordinary surgical cases; lastly, the Standpoint shifted. But it is the middle one of that sequence which is the key; when the unimaginable becomes the commonplace, the Fallacy is king.

As all the legends attest, it is very difficult to get the genie back into the bottle once you have taken the stopper out. But I think it is time to try. We cannot, obviously, forbid organ transplants; nor should we if we could. We can certainly put

pressure on hospitals and surgeons to devote less time and resources to the glamorous and exciting procedures that help only a handful of patients, and more to those which relieve the sufferings of many. But in the end, this business comes down to individuals, as every moral question must. I have an idea.

Many selfless and idealistic people, wishing that in death they may help someone else to live, carry cards identifying them as among those who are willing, in case of their sudden death, to have the still functioning parts of their bodies removed and transplanted.

I do not advocate the carrying of a card which makes clear that the holder *refuses* such use of his body, though I would certainly defend anyone who took that view and wanted it understood by those who fished him out of the wreckage. But what about a card which stipulates that the carrier will not accept for himself a heart or a lung or a kidney if it comes from an "organ bank" or a repository of "spare parts", let alone a brain-dead human being kept alive solely by artificial means?

There have been some infinitely touching stories, in recent years, of people sacrificing, say, a kidney, to save a beloved brother or daughter; less dramatic, but almost as moving, is the fact that a very large number of people are still willing to give up some of their blood for transfusion. These actions are truly altruistic and admirable. But that is because the exchange is entirely human and personal; the participants have not been "canibalized".

Count me, then, as the first man to declare formally that I do not want someone else's liver, brain, eyes or other parts inserted into me unless I have been properly introduced to my benefactor, and in addition that I am quite certain that he is happy to make over to me the organs he no longer needs.

Commentary • RONALD BUTT

Labour versus Democracy

By common consent of thinking politicians of the left, including Mr Gorbachev, socialism is a creed in need of revision. As a philosophical idea it has foundered on the rocks of reality. Defying their activists, even the leaders of the Labour Party are searching for a way of keeping their brand name while redefining or discarding the fundamentals which have defined socialism since its inception.

Simply to make patchwork changes to trim to the world of Thatcherism is, however, not enough. A new political philosophy is needed and to help Mr Kinnock and his colleagues two new socialist groups have been set up. The first calls itself The 20th June Group and consists of writers and publicists united principally by their detestation of what they regard as Thatcherite philistinism. Started by Lady Antonia Fraser, her husband Mr Pinter and Mr John Mortimer, it is composed conspicuously of notably well-heeled pink writers. Its handicap is that a group representative of the Sixties establishment which has worked so diligently to recast society to its own approved model is hardly likely to be well equipped to listen to the people now or to look beyond its own assumptions.

Much more substantial is the well-funded Labour think-tank to be known as the Institute of Policy Research under Baroness Blackstone. Lord Callaghan's former policy adviser who is now Master of Birbeck College. Its members include the economist, John Eatwell, who advises Mr Kinnock, various other academics, union leaders and businessmen. It echoes the right-wing Centre for Policy Studies founded by Mrs Thatcher and

Lord Joseph in being detached from the party it exists to help. But whereas the CPS began with a broad faith in market forces, individual responsibility and the elimination of inflation, the Blackstone unit starts with a vacuum caused by a fundamental faith discredited. Again, the essential question is whether it can cast aside Anthony Crosland's egalitarianism, Roy Jenkins's social permissiveness and Harold Wilson's bureaucratic planning to discover a new and acceptable meaning for socialism.

But above all, it needs to decide whether Labour's socialism is or is not to remain the anti-democratic creed which (beneath the apparatus of block voting, composite resolutions and a policy-making elected national executive) it has fundamentally always been.

Socialism was born primarily from the thinking of middle class philosophers (Karl Marx was only the most devastating of them) who were convinced that they had a model of a good society which the masses must be brought to accept. It is a system that has to be imposed from above, disregarding conflicting popular wishes. Such popular support as it has obtained it gained only because it offered a purported remedy for genuine grievances of poverty in a society which did not provide sufficient safeguards against the exploitation of workers by bosses with too much power.

Far from delivering prosperity, however, socialism holds it back and the power of the trade union and the party machine tends to corrupt as much as that of the capitalist. Socialism's real achievement has been that simply by existing it has forced

democratic societies gradually to evolve other solutions.

But behind socialism's offer of remedies for genuine grievances there lay a determination to force a pattern of intellectual concepts on the masses in exchange for the new supposedly more just social order. These concepts, however, float the instincts of ordinary people which is why the Labour Party consistently finds itself unable to bring out what would otherwise be its natural class majority.

An illustration of its lack of democracy was given in the Commons just before the recess when Mr Roy Hattersley and his party attacked Mr Tim Renton of the Home Office as a racist on account of minor rationalizations of the immigration rules. The debate was not only used for another Labour assault on the "primary purpose rule", by which it has to be proved that the intention of a spouse coming to Britain is a *bona fide* marriage and not simply to obtain settlement. There was even a bitter attack on a rule which, by stopping the import of second wives, is designed to establish the principle that imported polygamous marriage is not acceptable in this country.

Yet there can be no doubt of the British people's wish to prevent a thin end of the wedge on polygamous marriage, and there is equally no doubt of Labour's contempt for public opinion.

Moreover, in citing the smallness of the number so far involved in this category as a reason for not opposing the rule, Labour was simply following the technique it has used repeatedly against every attempt to limit immigration, which even now stands at some 46,000 annually,

or nearly 60 per cent of the 1975 figure. Regardless of the social problems created, the wishes of the old inhabitants of inner cities who find themselves in a cultural minority, and of a nation's right to maintain its identity, Labour has persistently opposed every effort to respond to public opinion. Nationalism may be all right in Africa, Armenia or Latvia but not in Britain. Logic is stood on its head and Mr Paul Boateng, the Labour MP for Brent South, even told the Commons that the post-war services were the reason "why Afro-Caribbean and Asian people are in this country", as though the huge numbers since then had never arrived to create very different circumstances.

All this is symptomatic of a general contempt for public opinion in the interest of social engineering. Labour local authorities close necessary services and old people's homes and sack teachers rather than cut frivolous "spending" on so-called sexual minorities and racial groups. Educational fashions and attitudes which diminish the chances of many children from less advantaged homes are encouraged in the name of a bogus egalitarianism. Public opinion is defied over the defence of Britain and the Western alliance. Dependency of the individual on the state is created in the name of social fairness.

Socialism is a philosophy which offers bread and cravens but despises popular opinion and the right of the majority to express its wishes. If Labour's new policy groups cannot promulgate a new philosophy making it more democratic, they will achieve nothing for their party.

AUGUST 11 ON THIS DAY 1858



The Times' correspondent was so little inspired by the Cherbourg fêtes which marked the completion of the harbour works and the unveiling of a statue of the Emperor Napoleon, that he allowed his imagination to wander over what might have been made of the banquet menu.

THE CHERBOURG FÊTES

(From Our Own Correspondent)

PARIS, Monday August 9, 6pm Yesterday morning Cherbourg was still thronged with visitors, although the character of the multitude had somewhat changed. Many of the Parisians, tired of the crowd and by the excitement, had departed homeward, and the railway station was besieged by thousands, eager to get away. On the other hand, the country people, profiting by Sunday leisure, flocked in to see Napoleon III inaugurate the statue of Napoleon I. By this time I suspect that nearly all the pilgrims from Paris have returned, or are on their way back to their domiciles. Some few of the most adventurous and insatiable may have followed the Emperor to Brest; industrious journalists and photographers may have lingered a little to complete their sketches; but by this evening Cherbourg will be doubtless be itself again — a little jubilant at the recollection of its recent splendour and new importance, and also, doubtless, a little jubilant at the harvest of gold pieces gathered during the festival. The canvas town erected by the railway company, and which has sheltered, during the eventful week, guests, journalists, a well-known coiffeur from the Rue Vivienne, and other useful and ornamental personages, is on the point of disappearing. A

yellow poster stuck up about Cherbourg announces the sale by auction tomorrow, the 10th, of tents and beds, bedding and bed linen — for these luxurious campaigners actually had sheets on their beds. It would probably not interest you much to receive the bill of fare of the dinner on board the *Bretagne*, which an attentive friend has transmitted to me. The "Roast Beef à l'Anglaise" occupies a place of honour in the menu, but otherwise, although the banquet was a delicate and sumptuous one, there is nothing particularly characteristic or *à propos* to the occasion in the names of the dishes composing it. The compiling chef, great though his culinary talents may be, evidently does not possess that dash of gastronomic poetry which characterized the poor Regenerator, now gone from among us. Had Alexis Soyer superintended the banquet, as he has done so many others scarcely less notable, the carte would have become a curiosity of literature. His ingenuity would have devised the most wonderful and appropriate titles for the dainty dishes he set before Queen and Emperor. Not a *Macedoine* but would have conveyed hopes of a long-continued *entente cordiale*; not a *salmon* but would have paid by its title some compliment as delicate as its flavour to the high personages there assembled. With specific intentions, and his errand, tenderly blushing, would have clasped claws in token of good will. His tact would certainly have made him exclude the *potage à la Crêpe*, which heads the bill of fare, lest it should remind the illustrious Frenchmen present of a battle remembered by that name; and the *poireaux à la Villeroi* would surely not have figured among the entrées, for fear of awakening unpleasant recollections of that General's disaster at Ramillies. Many accomplished cooks doubtless remain, but hardly one so skilled as was Soyer in the association of sentiment and sauce.



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PEACE ON OUR TERMS

The summer of 1988 suddenly promises peace. A common will to international concord, it seems, has crept up on long-standing conflicts and stands poised to smother them.

After eight years, the guns are falling silent in the Gulf. Russian troops are completing the first phase of their withdrawal from Afghanistan on schedule. An accord has been reached to end the civil war in Angola and give independence to Namibia.

Preliminary talks on ending the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia have concluded without the breakdown and recriminations many predicted. One month before the Seoul Olympics, which will see the widest participation ever, North Korea has accepted an invitation from the South to talk peace.

Such a catalogue is necessarily selective. There is no peace in the Middle East, nor in Central America, nor inside South Africa. The countries of Eastern Europe, like the Baltic states, are still tied against their will to the Soviet Union. Elsewhere, there are still only promises of peace. Yet there is a mood of palpable optimism and reasonableness the like of which has not been met for years.

To the United States and the Western alliance must go credit for single-minded pressure to halt Soviet expansion at Kabul and turn it back. Credit must also go jointly to the United States and the Soviet Union which have for more than two years now been quietly discussing points of regional friction at regular talks. It is these talks which have brought the combatants in Afghanistan and southern Africa to the negotiating table.

But credit for the quieter battlefields is due also to the Gorbachev leadership which has, little noticed in some quarters, embarked on a comprehensive change of tactics in its conduct of foreign affairs. The hand of Mr Gorbachev is to be discerned not only guiding the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, but also behind Vietnam's reluctant acquiescence in talks on Cambodia, and the Angolan Government's acceptance of terms for the withdrawal of Cuban support.

The Soviet leader has appeared to recognize, in his statements and actions, that war has not always provided the crucible in which Lenin's revolution is forged. Victory may be better sought by other means.

Moscow's preference for giving military rather than humanitarian aid to its foreign clients rebounded when famine struck and Western food took precedence over Soviet armaments at the airports of Ethiopia and Mozambique. Russia is now shifting its aid from military to civilian development projects.

Not only had the policies of the Brezhnev years failed to pay off in any sense. They also represented an increasing drain on resources badly needed at home.

So fundamental a change of political emphasis as that introduced by Mr Gorbachev

into foreign policy has risks, however. Every move made by Moscow towards a solution of one or other regional issue can equally be presented by his opponents as a concession or even a defeat.

Moreover, for every member of the new Soviet foreign policy establishment who defends the "realism" of the "new thinking", there is a member of the Communist Party establishment concerned that Russia is neglecting, or even betraying, its ideological principles. Last weekend Mr Yegor Ligachov, Mr Gorbachev's deputy, restated the traditional Soviet view that alliances should be made on ideological rather than economic grounds.

Those principles, as Mr Gorbachev's acolytes would surely point out, were rapidly leading the Soviet Union into a ghetto of backward and mostly unsuccessful countries — the Warsaw Pact, Vietnam, North Korea, Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique, Cuba and Nicaragua — and excluding it from the rapidly growing economies of the developing capitalist world. The Soviet Union had no alternative but to change its priorities.

Even if Mr Gorbachev's opponents do not succeed in forcing a reconsideration of present policies, however, Moscow's ultimate objective remains unclear. Is the "new thinking" really new thinking in which democracy and national self-determination are respected, or is it the pursuit of global conquest by other, more insidious, means?

Time was when Russia claimed world leadership on ideological grounds. When the millennium of world revolution failed to arrive, it turned to military means to bring it forward. Now, that method too has been acknowledged to be ineffective. Others must follow.

One way Russia can now aspire to world leadership, as even Mr Gorbachev has conceded, is by the force of its example. An economically unsuccessful country conquering others by armed force against their will is ill-equipped to provide that example. An economically strong and politically confident Soviet Union might do. At present, the slow pace of change in Russia makes that a distant prospect.

Neither this knowledge, however, nor Mr Gorbachev's respect for the force of example should foster complacency. Temporary tactical retreats are the essence of Leninism. They need to be closely watched.

If they bring peace to areas of the world which have experienced precious little peace in recent years, this is something the West must build on by offering the force of its own example, the example of democracy, participation and economic success. For a short time, the West has a chance to show that there can be peace in our time and that it can be on our terms. But that chance will not last for ever.

COME BACK, MR CLARKE

On Monday the Department of Health launched a series of advertisements for nursing as a career. On Tuesday the recruitment effort was nullified. Overnight nurses' pay was on the front pages again. After the April pay review it looked as if, whatever other problems the National Health Service has, it would henceforth be spared the threat of industrial action by nurses; that prospect has now evaporated. The breakdown casts a shadow over the arrival at Health of Mr Kenneth Clarke. There is an urgent need for good faith to be restored.

The belligerence of the leaders of the Confederation of Health Service Employees and the alacrity with which they reach for the damaging weapon of a nurses' strike does them little credit. But Colson and the National Union of Public Employees are not alone in their walkout. It is difficult not to see in the angered reaction of the Royal College of Nursing — an interest group the public has come to trust — a major blunder on the part of the Department of Health.

But on closer inspection this turns out to be not a blunder but a calculated exercise in trying to fit the expansive settlement proposed by the pay review body into too tight a financial corset. Deliberately or not, the department allowed nurses to read into the Government's acceptance of the review a series of assumptions about pay structure and numbers. The department happily let the cameras focus on delighted ward sisters making sanguine calculations about their pay increases. But in a letter on May 10, it was intimated that the Government had a quite different understanding of some key phrasing in the report. On Tuesday, when the numbers in the revision were finally spelled out, the disagreement

between the department and the nurses became unbridgeable.

At issue is how many nursing sisters should be paid in the grade reflecting, in the review body's words, "more heavily loaded jobs." The RCN says the clear sense of the report was a majority of sisters, some two per ward, up to a dozen in intensive-care units. The department speaks of jobs with "continuous responsibility" and wants a maximum of one sister per ward, four per unit admitted to the higher paid grade. The department's proposal has knock-on effects down the hierarchy, pushing large numbers of nurses out of the gradings they had been led in April to expect.

There was scope for argument about the structure described in the review, and numbers of sisters who because of their work patterns deserve more. These were issues to be negotiated. What is inexplicable is the way that the Department of Health allowed a mass of (it now turns out erroneous) expectations to be built up in April. What is worse is the way in which the department's priority has changed. Instead of giving nursing a permanent, incentive-based career structure, which would recruit many more nurses than expensive television advertisements, the object is now to cram the entire settlement into a preordained cash limit.

Here is why Mr Clarke's return from the beaches of Spain is now necessary. Ministers deserve holidays, to be sure. But a good deal of the political capital generated by the April settlement is being squandered; a once for all opportunity to regulate and enhance the attractions of the nursing profession is being lost. By speedy conciliation he could once again remove nurses' pay from contention.

FEAR OF LOW FLYING

The mid-air collision of two Tornado aircraft above the Lake District is a tragedy for the families of the four men who died and a heavy loss for the RAF, in financial as well as human terms. But it has also rekindled an old argument which the Government will have to address with care.

The argument concerns low-level flying. Pilots are taught to fly low in order to duck below enemy radar screens in wartime. By hugging the ground they can take advantage of the earth's curvature and be almost on top of their targets before being detected. All air forces practise this — and have made themselves unpopular by doing so. One cause of public complaint is the danger involved and another is the noise of low-flying jets.

While the problem is thus international, the RAF is more vulnerable than most. This is partly because of this country's size and population density and partly because of an increase in low-level training. The RAF itself admits that this has doubled in the last nine years, to take full advantage of the high performance (and high cost) Tornado.

Yet the accident rate has gone down. Last year there were up to 14 major accidents compared with 25 five years before. These involved all types of aircraft, including

helicopters, and by no means all occurred while flying low-level (the average proportion of these is one in four).

The noise factor is rather harder to evaluate. The chief characteristic of military jet noise is that it is very sudden, very loud and relatively short-lived. While the Lake District (and anywhere else) would be better off without it, those living there probably suffer less than people near busy airports or urban ringroads.

The RAF must train and must do so to the best of its ability. Indeed most people in the country understand that and the services are by no means without friends.

But the Ministry of Defence should take care to preserve this reservoir of good will. This was not the first fatal accident in the region and the sorry loss of human life and financial investment (the cost of training a Tornado pilot is assessed at £2.8 million) has come at a time when détente rather than defence is seizing the public imagination. An inquiry has already started. Its findings should be made public and if, as seems possible, low-flying needs to be better coordinated and controlled, no cost should be spared to ensure that this is done. The public must be reassured if its support is to be retained.

What T. S. Eliot had in mind

From the Treasurer of the London Library

Sir, The report (August 8) about the T. S. Eliot Centenary Fund quotes me as saying that T. S. Eliot's views had changed after the war, and that had allowed me to support the fund. I seem to have been misunderstood.

I do not know what was in T. S. Eliot's mind either before or after the war, although his *Notes Towards the Definition of Culture*, published in 1948, may be indicative.

In it he more than once mentions that our culture is based on "the legacy of Greece, Rome and Israel". That is not surprising, for everyone knows of the profound respect Eliot had for Simone Weil, and of his close association with Karl Mannheim.

No, I supported the creation of the fund without reservation because T. S. Eliot was instrumental in forming the London Library Trust, which both helps students and needy scholars pay their subscriptions and enables the library to buy works which it might not otherwise acquire; and it seemed entirely appropriate to mark the centenary of his birth by creating a fund of that trust to advance those objects which were so near to his heart, so good for the library and so good for literary scholarship.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS GOLDEN,
Treasurer,
The London Library,
14 St James's Square, SW1,
August 8.

From Mr R. V. Smith
Sir, I have read Mr A. Julius's interesting but rather frightening Commentary article, "The mark against Eliot" (August 9).

The considerable Scottish poet who wrote under the name of Hugh MacDiarmid was a doughty disliking of the English, and never seemed to hesitate to say so. Nevertheless, I admire him as a poet and enjoy his work, and would never dream of trying to denigrate him morally and generally, simply because he disliked my countrymen.

People tend to have dislikes and prejudices, not always very rational, not always themselves likeable; but I think we must forgive ourselves, or at any rate each other, for our human shortcomings, while trying to amend them.

Indeed, nobody sends for the police or the men in white coats for anti-Semitism, anti-Frankism, anti-Italianism, anti-Hispanicism, anti-Nipponism, or even anti-Americanism. It is that one group which is protected (and which unremotely protects itself) against any expression of the foibles of the rest of humanity.

Of course, one realises only too well the appalling crimes which gave rise to this situation; but should the rest of us at this late date go on accepting it? Yours faithfully,
R. V. SMITH,
17 Rodney Road,
New Malden,
Surrey,
August 9.

Dog meat in Korea

From Miss Pamela Stewart
Sir, It is a pity that your contributor, Jonathan Meades, should treat in such a facetious way the Koreans' habit of killing dogs for meat by torture (Eating Out, July 30), in the interests of a better taste.

Does he really not see any difference between the comparatively speedy death of the slaughterhouse or shooting, and prolonged and deliberate torture? Does he really think it "sentimental" to object to such torture?

If many Westerners do eat such meat, knowingly, when they go to the East, the more shame to them. Yours faithfully,
PAMELA STEWART,
6 Beatrice Road,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire,
July 30.

Personal injury

From Mr Nigel H. Harris
Sir, I read with interest Frances Gibb's report (August 2) and the subsequent correspondence from solicitors (August 4) whose opinions I strongly support.

I see and report on six personal accident and alleged medical negligence problems each week; my instructions come from plaintiffs' solicitors and I attempt to give an independent and objective opinion.

My experience suggests that as far as medical negligence cases are concerned, solicitors should always instruct an expert in the very early stages, but preferably after they have obtained the X-rays and medical records.

I find that after perusal of the documents, it is often possible to give a preliminary opinion. This will indicate either that there is no substance to the allegation and it should not be pursued (about 50 per cent of the cases sent to me), or there is evidence that the matter should be further investigated and, if necessary, advice obtained from other medical disciplines.

Unnecessary and sometimes very long delays occur because the medical records cannot be obtained; the fault is sometimes due to lack of vigour on the part of solicitors, and on other occasions the fault lies with health authorities. Whatever the cause there are

Conflict of views over sanctions

From the Commonwealth Secretary-General

Sir, You are prepared in your leader of August 5 to believe any evidence which supports your anti-sanctions stance. You give credence to polls conducted by organisations based far away from South Africa, yet you choose to ignore any evidence which might contradict your position.

The assertion that South African blacks look to sanctions as the most necessary form of pressure on Pretoria for peaceful change and would prefer such suffering as sanctions may impose to the far greater suffering and humiliation of apartheid is based on the extensive consultations which the Commonwealth has undertaken with religious leaders, trade unionists, and others involved in the struggle in South Africa.

These are the considered conclusions of the Commonwealth committee of eight foreign ministers, chaired by Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, not just mine. The committee also recognised that Pretoria's fear of sanctions is leading to a concerted campaign supported by massive financial resources to convince Western countries that black South Africans are opposed to sanctions.

The Commonwealth needs no pointers to the path of diplomacy. The EPG (Eminent Persons Group) mission to South Africa was a patient and determined journey down that path. It was Pretoria which crudely rejected it and continues to proscribe any form of peaceful opposition to apartheid from any quarter within South Africa. All Commonwealth leaders agree that the EPG's negotiating concept remains valid today.

We do not help South Africa — white or black — by giving comfort to the status quo. It is precisely because even the limited sanctions imposed so far by a limited number of countries are beginning to have some effect that Pretoria's propaganda against them is being stepped up.

Repeats on TV

From Mr Nicholas Serpell
Sir, Mr Peter Plowley, General Secretary of Equity, says (August 9) that his union will "never" give the BBC unrestricted rights to repeat previously-shown material.

He appears to ignore the fact that these programmes were financed by the licence fee and his members who took part in them paid by the ordinary television viewer. Equity is also denying the BBC an opportunity to recoup some of the initial investment in these programmes by allowing them to be sold as videos to the general public, the income from which will go towards the cost of new programmes.

By all means let Equity members receive repeat fees at an agreed scale, but it is not at all right that they should deny viewers access to material which is, in effect, the property of the licence payer. Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS SERPELL,
Springfield,
Lower Middle Hill,
Pensilva, Liskeard, Cornwall.

From the General Secretary of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain
Sir, Your Media Editor's report (August 5) concerning the BBC and the arts unions, as far as the Writers' Guild is concerned, is an

Braking point

From Mr William Jowett
Sir, Something approaching half a million new motor cars have just been released on to the roads. The new owners had previously studied all the available performance figures — both official and unofficial — and are well able to talk about petrol consumption at various speeds, acceleration, top speed and any number of other statistics.

However, not one of them has been able to research into the most basic safety need of any car — that is, its braking ability.

Is it not time that a standard test

international pressure through economic and other sanctions is ultimately an act of kindness and black South Africans overwhelmingly recognise this. It is a criminal offence for them to say so — hence your statistics. What sanctions hurt most is the apartheid system. The world is increasingly sure of that.

Yours faithfully,
SONNY RAMPHAL,
Marlborough House,
Pall Mall, SW1,
August 10.

From Sir James Spicer, MP for Dorset West (Conservative)
Sir, I write to congratulate you on your leader, "Propaganda or diplomacy", which so effectively demolished any of the arguments put forward by the pro-sanctions lobby. That article does not seem to have been widely read by the bishops attending the Lambeth Conference and, in particular, by the Bishop of Manchester. Speaking on the Today programme last Saturday he asserted that "all informed opinion" in South Africa was in favour of sanctions. One is entitled to ask the bishop just what constitutes "informed opinion".

Should the 40,000 miners from Mozambique who have lost their livelihood in South African mines as a result of sanctions be allowed a view? Should the many thousands of workers in the Cape citrus fruit industry be consulted? Should all those workers who, because of the pressure upon Western firms to disinvest, have lost the protection of the code of conduct, be supportive of sanctions?

Finally, might the bishop and some of his colleagues be prepared to take to task the Government of Zambia for encouraging Zambia Airways to provide a substitute service from the US to Lusaka (with onward connecting flights to South Africa) in place of an American service withdrawn as a result of congressional edict? Yours faithfully,
JAMES SPICER,
House of Commons,
August 8.

example of guilt by association. Without agreements the lot of the writer would be even worse than it is now. None of the union restrictive practices described by Mr Evans applies to us.

If someone wishes to hire a car, he pays according to the length of time and the mileage. If the BBC wish to increase the mileage they get out of writers' work, all they have to do is come and discuss the matter with the guild. We shall continue to be flexible. Yours faithfully,
WALTER J. JEFFREY,
General Secretary,
The Writers' Guild of Great Britain,
430 Edgware Road, W2.

Train robbery film

From Mrs Christine Plant
Sir, I join the ranks of those outraged at the booming Great Train Robbery industry (article, August 6). It is particularly outrageous that the film about Buster Edwards's life is to be launched with a royal premiere.

Might one suggest that all royalties should be paid to the insurance company who met the original claim? Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE PLANT,
4 Sandalwood Drive,
St Nicholas at Wade,
Birmingham, Kent.

was devised that enabled potential purchasers to compare how well a car stops? The distance taken to stop from (say) 30, 50 and 70 miles per hour would be an extremely useful indicator as to the desirability of any particular model.

Controlled test conditions, ensuring true comparability, could easily be arranged just as they are now for acceleration and fuel consumption figures. Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM JOWETT,
24 Montpelier Street,
Brighton, Sussex,
August 3.

out the tracheotomy tube sufficiently frequently.

This allegation was added to the pleadings in 1986, 10 years after the event. By this time the nurse who was caring for Mr Blackburn at the time could not be traced.

The significant clinical notes were disclosed in 1982. It is true that the secretary of the hospital declined to disclose them initially because he was not told what was being alleged. The judge declared his decision reasonable but complained that the secretary failed to alert others who would have taken steps to protect the intensive-care unit's detailed records, which might have enabled the health authority to vindicate the actions of the nurse.

Should the health authority have taken greater steps to establish the cause of his damage at the time?

On the evidence available in 1987 it appeared that Mr Blackburn's damage was sustained as a result of a blocked tube on October 8, 1976. In 1976 those who were looking after Mr Blackburn were preoccupied with the fact that he was gravely ill even before the incident and concentrated all of their attentions on saving his life. Yours faithfully,
M. A. M. S. LEIGH,
Hempsons,
33 Henrietta Street,
Strand, WC2,
August 5.

Target for 1992 on languages

From Mr Geoffrey Holroyde
Sir, Spectrum, August 8, asks, "Are we learning our lesson" in respect of European language competence by representatives of British companies, come 1992.

I am persuaded that: 1. The chance of opening up business is greatly enhanced if one pays the customer (or supplier) the courtesy of speaking his language. 2. The chance of clinching a deal and cooperating effectively is greatly enhanced if one understands not just the language, but the culture that underpins it. 3. The year 1992 will find us largely unprepared in those respects compared with our European colleagues.

A recent survey of 1,300 small firms in the Black Country showed almost no direct penetration by them of European markets. What exports they do make are via the large companies they supply. Reluctantly, some of them are realising that they must learn to export directly, and that means learning a language quickly. But by then it is rather late.

The key lies with the most prestigious universities, whose entrance requirements, alas, have largely determined what is taught in school to all the pupils, not just aspiring scholars.

If Cambridge required oral competence in a European language to enter and graduate in engineering or economics, and to prove it interviewed prospective students in the language; if Oxford did similarly for its degrees — and the rest of higher education then followed — the public schools would alter their sixth-form timetables at once. The State schools would follow a bit later, and oral language competence would spread like wildfire down the school curriculum, reaching those parts that even the secretary of state can't reach.

Yours etc.,
GEOFFREY HOLROYDE
(Former Director, Coventry Polytechnic),
38 Coten End, Warwick.

Reading classics

From Dr P. V. Jones and Dr K. C. Sidwell
Sir, We are not about to disagree with Dr Daly's kind recommendation (July 30) that adults unfortunate enough to miss out on Latin and Greek at school should use our books (*Reading Greek and Reading Latin*) to learn those two superb languages, although we would point out that both are intended for late learners rather than the "teach yourself" market. However, nothing can replace the discipline and the excitement of working in a university department like Birkbeck's.

Is this the time for the foundation of a Classics Trust, as was proposed at the Classical Association in April, or some form of the American National Endowment for the Humanities, to ensure this precious heritage is not swept away by the New Education? Yours etc.,
P. V. JONES,
K. C. SIDWELL (St Patrick's College, Maynooth),
Department of Classics,
The University,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
Tyne and Wear.

Cook memorial

From Sir Donald Tebbitt
Sir, The Bishop of Ely's courteous response of July 27 to my letter of July 16 about the Cook memorial in the Church of St Andrew the Great in Cambridge unfortunately raises a number of questions as it answers.

For instance, much is made of the proposed construction of a staircase for better viewing of the main memorial on the chancel wall. But the memorial is already perfectly visible and legible from the ground.

Again, one wonders whether "the memorial tablet in the floor" of which the bishop speaks, of which he does not speak, will also be situated in one of the new shops and, if so, how respectful treatment and access will be provided.

Mrs Cook left £1,000 to endow the memorial. It should have accumulated enough interest to help to resolve the present problems. If not, surely the diocese and their chosen developers might wish to meet the cost of proper treatment and access from the proceeds of the development. Yours sincerely,
DONALD TEBBITT,
Priory Cottage,
Church Road, Toft, Cambridge,
August 5.

All the eights

From Mr K. Houghton
Sir, Today, Monday, 8.8.88, is my birthday. Having thus survived five eight-year periods at eight minutes past 8 a.m. I eagerly checked the eight numbers of my Portfolio card. I was eight away. Yours faithfully,
K. HOUGHTON,
31 Hollymount,
Hagley Road,
Edgbaston, Birmingham,
August 8.

From Mr T. W. Stone
Sir, What fun to find the speedometer of my car, a Triumph of British engineering, reading 8888 miles. The temptation to take it out and "88" was resisted. Yours faithfully,
T. W. STONE,
25 Adam Court,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire,
August 8.

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Welsh in a melo' mood

Despite the state of European air traffic control and of the Costa del Sol, hanging yourself in preference to going on a package holiday to Spain could still perhaps be said to be something of an over-reaction. It is a measure of the conviction of Tom Clarke's writing and, even more so, the acting of the excellent cast, that it seemed hardly exaggerated Celtic melodrama when, in *Out of Love* (BBC2), Thomas the Welsh farmer (Dafydd Hywel) chose a heavenly sky tour in preference to the more earthly variety in the company of his English lover, Ruth (Juliet Stevenson).

Admittedly, it was not just the prospect of those full English breakfasts that caused Thomas to kill himself for, like Bruce Chatwin's *On the Black Hill*, *Out of Love*, a full-length feature in the "Screenplay" series, was an intense drama of Welsh hill-farmers' familial conflict brought to the boil by the amorous intrusion of an educated English woman.

Even one of the tritests from the film of Chatwin's book, Robert Griffiths, popped up as Ernest, an early suitor of Ruth, until his family stop him seeking comfort beyond the constraints of Chapel. In *Out of Love*, as in *On the Black Hill*, a father figure stole the show. Emrys James, as Thomas's father, was naturally more at home in the valleys than *Black Hill*'s Bob Peck, and, safe in the knowledge that he was not to die in full flow, he was able to produce a well-paced, exquisitely nuanced cameo, which made a throw-away line about the size of a kitchen table bristle with Oedipal, nationalist and sexual conflict.

The relative significance of size also cropped up in *Wideworld* (BBC2), with the photographers and journalists of the *National Geographic*. The Arabist Tom Abercrombie worked out that, if his Washington home had the same population density as Foz, it would house 1,200 people instead of the two which he sometimes found a crowd.

Andrew Hislop

David Robinson on a British-made teenage beach party movie which has a pleasing period innocence

Safe in the shallows

CINEMA

Shag (15)
Cannons Haymarket,
Oxford Street, Chelsea

Anna (15)
Metro

King of the Children
ICA (from August 19)

The title of *Shag* refers, for those who have forgotten or never knew, to a dance craze of the early Sixties. At least to judge from the film, the *Shag* brought with it music that now sounds remarkably stolid and heavy-footed compared with the frenzies of regular rock'n'roll. Perhaps, though, this impression is due to the particular selection of non-stop, album-destined period numbers, filled out with pastiche by the Voltage Brothers.

Shag marks the invasion of the United States by the British film producers Palace, who made *Company of Wolves*, *Absolute Beginners* and *Mona Lisa*. Whilst shooting at a safe distance from Hollywood, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, they play safe by sticking close to Hollywood stereotypes. The musical-nostalgia film is theoretically a sound bet: while teenagers can identify with players who are their contemporaries, the forties and over can revisit schoolday memories. *Shag* is set in the last happy summer just before the assassination of JFK on 22 November 1963.

In spirit it recalls beach party pictures of the Fifties; though the British producers and director, Zelda Barron, bring to it the more demure touch of Goldcrest's ill-fated "First Love" series.

Luanne (Page Hannah), Pudgie (Annabeth Gish), Melaina (Bridget Fonda) and Carson (Phoebe Cates) are school friends, children of Southern conservative, God-fearing families. Her three friends decide to spirit Carson off to Myrtle Beach for a weekend's fling before her marriage to the stuffy Harley (Tyronne Power Jar).

The pairings-off and rivalries and inevitable arrival of Harley and Luanne's upper-crust parents, who think the girls are in Fort



Girlish fun: Phoebe Cates (left), Page Hannah and Bridget Fonda are three school-friends talking about in their lingerie in Zelda Barron's *Shag*

Sumter studying their Southern heritage, are too predictable to need description; the screenplay (by Robin Swicord, Lanier Laney and Terry Sweeney) hops from one couple to the other in the approved soap-opera method.

The performers — particularly Bridget Fonda as the group's beauty and Page Hannah as the glasses-and-no-passes one — are very attractive and expert. They are gravely handicapped, though, by the screenplay, which establishes their characters in strict two dimensions and (again soap-opera style) allows no real development in the course of the story.

Perhaps it is partly the fault of the screenplay, too, that Zelda Barron — who is clearly a capable director, particularly in her work with actors — never manages to any degree to exploit the location or catch the atmosphere of the Southern beach resort. It is refreshing all the same (and helpful in establishing the period) to have a teen film without heavy sex or four-letter dialogue.

The over-16 audience might find themselves more at home at the Metro, with Anna, an enjoy-

able if uneven theatre story, with a tone of ironic detachment that seems more Polish (like its director and writer) than New York, where the story is set.

The writer, Agnieszka Holland — a director in her own right as well as the author of several scripts for Andrzej Wajda — has personally witnessed a lot of East European history. Her father died as a victim of Stalinist persecutions. In consequence she chose to study and marry in Prague; but found herself imprisoned there after the crack-down of 1968. In 1972 she returned to work in Poland, but quit to come to the West in 1982.

Holland, then, understands the predicament of the heroine. Anna was a star of the Czech movie renaissance of the Sixties but is now a refugee in her forties, reduced to understudying in off-Broadway theatres, shunned by her former husband who has sold out for the profit from commercials.

Anna takes under her wing a new-generation Czech emigre, a young beauty called Krystyna. Krystyna swiftly masters Ameri-

can language and mores in a way that Anna never has, and soon becomes the cuckoo in the nest, getting the jobs and the men that elude Anna and — the final insult — stealing Anna's biography. Anna goes into a mental collapse and takes a pot shot at Krystyna. In a beautifully sardonic coda, Krystyna explains that she is solving Anna's problems by getting her a face-lift. "They do that in America."

The film is very much theatre-orientated. The first-time director Yurek Bogayevicz was an actor with Grotowski, and since emigrating to America in 1971 has worked as a stage director. Sally Kirkland, who plays the temperamental Czech with astonishing conviction, is a Lee Strasberg veteran who runs her own theatre workshops; and most of the rest of the cast come from the stage. The result is a picture of back-stage life and relationships whose grotesqueness is enjoyably credible.

The younger woman is played by Paulina Porizkova, a radiant beauty in the style of Nastassja Kinski or Isabella Rossellini. Porizkova is a world-class model

who now debuts as a very promising actress. Her Krystyna is an incorrigible charmer, innocent of either morality or malice.

King of the Children is the third film by the outstanding young Chinese director Chen Kaige, who previously made *Yellow Earth* and *The Big Parade*. It is based on a short story by Ah Cheng, who was alongside Chen among the millions of educated young Chinese deported to work in the countryside under the Cultural Revolution.

The hero is another such youngster, who is taken from the rural barracks and sent to teach in a village school. In this remote place, human intractability — his own and his students' — comes into instinctive conflict with the inflexibility of a system which aims to destroy the regional language along with much else of traditional culture.

Chen's sheer technical skill — or at least his pride in displaying it — becomes something of a barrier here. Though the film was apparently made very cheaply, there is a sense of the artistic effort drawing attention to itself at the expense of the underlying argument.

CONCERT

Making it clear

BBC SO/Bamert
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Schoenberg's contact with Maeterlinck, like Debussy's at the same age, precipitated a crisis of self-discovery, though with almost the opposite creative effect. Where Debussy preserved and compounded the ambiguities of *Pelléas et Mélisande*, Schoenberg used all the Straussian means of musical representation to make it abundantly clear what is going on.

In the one case, music treats the text with discretion and thereby displays its greater range; in the other, the words are obliterated, but the graphic nature of the score keeps calling them to mind. Though one never thinks of Schoenberg while hearing Debussy, Schoenberg's symphonic poem keeps on recalling the play and therefore the opera.

It also keeps on recalling Strauss, and this is the greater difficulty for the conductor, since if it is performed as Strauss, then the decisively-characterized ideas will have to be played down in favour of the harmonic flow. The opposite alternative is to play down the Strauss and go for angular detail, but Matthias Bamert, conducting the score most impressively from memory, showed that it is possible to maintain a rich, Straussian tide and yet let all the contortions register — indeed, this must be done if the work is to sound as uncomfortable as it should, as incipiently atonal.

This was also most thoroughly Schoenbergian in being a deeply contrapuntal performance, so that for once the polyphonic thenody of wind instruments after *Pelléas*'s death did not stand out as an abrupt piece of musical consciousness. If the vaults scene found it a bit naive in its weird effects, and the fate theme too dramatic, one could believe these could be faults of Schoenberg's overwrought enthusiasm, so powerfully identified and projected here.

There was earlier a clear and understated witty performance of Mozart's *D Major Flute Concerto* by Philip Davies, and a purposeful but buoyant account of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony that most effectively reached a solid download only on the last chord.

Paul Griffiths

Royal family of dance

Kirov Ballet
Covent Garden

If comments about the purity, aristocracy and classicism of the Kirov style have left the impression that this is a rather solemn company, then *The Corsair* which is being given at Covent Garden this week should dispel all such false illusions. This is genuinely art and entertainment.

The programme claims that the ballet is based on Byron's poem, but the links are tenuous. What you have is a mid-Victorian spectacle with dashing hero, faithful friend, virtuous heroines and wicked villains, studded with liberal doses of love, betrayal, treachery and revenge.

Add to this colourful scenery spectacular stage effects including a convincing shipwreck and cascading fountains, and (most important) some excellent choreography magnificently danced, and I doubt there is a more enjoyable evening in any London theatre this week.

The choreography is credited to Petipa, and much of it looks like the genuine article: a dance for three pirates and their ladies which begins with two rousing pistol shots; the diversissement of living flowers; a trio of odalisques and throughout the ballet a cascade of glittering inventive solos for the heroine and her girl friend. Some parts have evidently been changed over the course of the

DANCE



Extraordinary skills: Ruzimatov

years and some is modern pettish, but the whole effect is highly satisfactory, especially danced as it was by last night's cast.

As Medora, Altyan Asymuratova brings the rich tone of her

dancing, and her easy, polished technique to a role which requires her to spend a disproportionate amount of time either grieving for her lover, or in chains, or both, all of which she does wonderfully. Yelena Pankova as her fellow captive Gulnara, a more Dorabella-like character, has plenty of opportunities to display her light, soaring jumps and beautiful foot work while her blonde looks provide an admirable contrast to Asymuratova's dark beauty.

Vyegny Neff is as noble a corsair as one could wish, shedding the reserve which marked his performances earlier in the season and wearing his multitude of disguises with every appearance of enjoyment. His dancing was strong enough not to be overshadowed in the famous trio (generally shown adapted as a *pas de deux*) between Conrad, Medora, and Ali, the extraordinary Farukh Ruzimatov.

This I think is Ruzimatov's best role. It gives him a chance to display not only his fluid jumps and fast, multiple pirouettes — which he can slow down or speed up at will — but also his incredible plasticity. Crouching by Conrad's side or at Medora's feet, his body has a wonderful modelled quality, like living sculpture.

Konstantin Zaklinsky as the sinister-comic slave dealer, the trio of odalisques, the *corps de ballet*, all deserve the highest praise. This is the Royal Family of dance having fun.

Judith Cruickshank

Quiet strength of character

London Festival
Ballet
Festival Hall

Amid a profusion of visiting dance companies from three continents, London Festival Ballet has been quietly continuing its season on the South Bank and drawing good houses, in spite of the competition. Tuesday's performance of *La Sylphide* gave this season's guest star, Julio Bocca, the most interesting of his London assignments. Contrary to advance-re-

ports from abroad, it is not so much his technique you notice in this ballet as the quiet sincerity of his acting.

Bocca dances well, with a lively spring in his jumps, but we have seen these solos done as well or better before now. On the other hand, he made vividly memorable James's look of worried guilt when he thinks is infatuation with the Sylph is about to be exposed to his bride to be.

What Bocca needs at this stage of his career is to settle with a company that will develop his expressive gifts. That way he could become invaluable. Otherwise, once his youthful energy is gone, I fear he will prove only a shooting star — blazing up but soon gone.

His attentive concern for the story and the other characters undoubtedly helped Jane Haworth at her first performance of the title part. This is her first major role: a reward, it seems, for steady progress in lesser parts over the past couple of years.

Peter Schaufuss has a good habit of giving young dancers a chance to prove themselves. (I must mention, for instance, the fine showing which Laura Contardi and Christine Camillo made last week as, respectively, Odette and Odile in *Swan Lake*, with Alessandro Molin as their dashingly romantic Siegfried.) It often pays off, and Miss Haworth's Sylph is a case in point.

Her dancing is light, unforced and lucid: she plays the Sylph as a fascinatingly fresh, attractive creature who flickers in the sunlight and dies as sadly but unselfishly as a butterfly.

Another newcomer, Marguerite Donelle, made a touchingly simple, pretty character of James's abandoned fiancée, and Camillo led the attendant Sylphs with crisp fluency. Peter Ernst Lassen, conducting, gave a lively account of Lovenskjold's score in its expanded version.

John Percival

THEATRE

Three Sisters
Barbican

A definitive production of Chekhov will never be possible. The prevailing mood, the tenor of particular scenes and the shifts within them are a coming together of infinite numbers of precise decisions. As well as this, there is the matter of translation — a thorny difficulty in all Russian plays, but pre-eminently so when dealing with the allusive speeches of Chekhov.

John Barton, director of this fine production — the first RSC Chekhov for 10 years — comments on the problem in a note in the programme (excellent value, by the way, for £1, with long contributions from Harriet Walter and Brian Cox, the production's Masha and Vershinin). Barton points out that one of Olga's lines translates literally as "I would love husband"; so it is up to the director and actress to decide whether to make this "I would love to have a husband" or "I would have liked to have a husband," or, as here, "I would have loved my husband," chosen presumably because of the contrast with Masha, whose pedantic husband bores her to pieces.

The version this production uses is Barton's own, based on a literal translation by Helen Rappaport, and restores a few passages absent from other English editions. The majority of these appear to be the equivalent of grace notes, but there is one major restitution in Masha's final speech, which was always curiously shorter than the closing speeches of her sisters.

The depth of feeling required to express Masha's original lines,

Don't Go Away Mad
Donmar Warehouse

The setting of this previously unperformed play by William Saroyan is the terminal cancer ward for men at a San Francisco hospital. To be more accurate, the sitting room of the ward (Voytek's act, festooned with Christmas decorations and lined with curling mirrors of the Golden Gate and Alcatraz, is a little gem of institutional would-be cheeriness), for the men we see, dressed in regulation hospital pyjamas and gowns, are those well or determined enough to hang on to a little more life by resisting Dr Bohan's medications and the nurse's advice to get to bed.



Overwhelming scene of parting: Brian Cox as Vershinin, bursting with emotion, Harriet Walter as Masha

despairing yet valorous, about "the cranes that fly on and on, for thousands and thousands and thousands of years", was seemingly outside the range of Olga Kuiper, the first Masha and Chekhov's wife. She implored him to cut them and obediently he did so: 87 years later we have them back where I trust they will remain. The full speech is certainly within Harriet Walter's soaring range as she points high above the heads of the audience, radiant in the falling light, inspired and for that brief moment commanding her emotion.

The strength of her performance

is such that Masha becomes the cornerstone of this production, but a triangular cornerstone because of the equivalent strengths of David Bradley's Kulygin, owner of a nutmeg-grater voice that would try the sanity of any wife, and Brian Cox's Vershinin. Like other men of ample girth, Cox has the ability to move with dapper grace; his voice has a similar neatness, through the bounds of which his emotions finally burst with an infinity of accumulated pain. The parting scene is overwhelming.

Deborah Findlay overemphasizes Olga's tones of complaint,

and Stella Gonet plays up the imperceptiveness in Irina's character. But the production contains no performance that is seriously below par. Bruce Alexander's confession as Andrey is exquisitely quiet, while Pippa Guard's odiously maternal Natasha would almost justify infanticide. Set on a wooden plinth, of the kind that clocks are placed on under glass, and enclosed within a half-circle of lichenous birch trees, the evening is long (three and a quarter hours) but amply, beautifully filled.

Jeremy Kingston

Reasons to believe

George Porgie, looking in Michael Moriarty's magnetic performance, as one imagines Robert Lowell's Uncle Devereux Winslow might have looked, is dying in style: tall and debonair, wearing a striped satin dressing gown instead of the regulation green, he bounces in the first morning doing keep-fit exercises.

His resistance is more than a purely personal matter: he organizes it as a group activity, almost a war-time one, attempting to channel frustrations and overcome fears so that each man's days may not be cut short.

He diverts the all-consuming

hunger of angry black Greedy Reed (Stefan Kalipha) into words, and the dictionary turns out to provide surprising nourishment. Brick (Phillip Joseph) likes to look across to the lights of Alcatraz and feel that he is a free man: George Porgie tries (and fails) to persuade him that incarceration is an inescapable part of the human condition.

Not much happens in this play — indeed the more obvious pieces of action tend to seem contrived — yet it is neither boring nor, in the end, depressing. Its real climax — located by the director, Keith Hack, with an apparent

casualness which is the art which conceals art — are small epiphanies, memories of inconsequential moments of happiness which are what make people want to go on living.

For George Porgie it is a dream of drinking Coca-Cola on a porch; for Brick, the story of how he stepped in a park full of girls in the middle of a cycling race. When Phillip Joseph tells it, there are five minutes of spellbound attention.

This may not be a great play, but there are enough good things in it to more than merit this belated bringing-to-light. Director and cast (no weak links) certainly provide a lesson in letting a text speak.

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BOOKS

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The daubers of Venice

Tom Lubbock scans the canals for painters of processions and miracles, and finds more than meets the eye

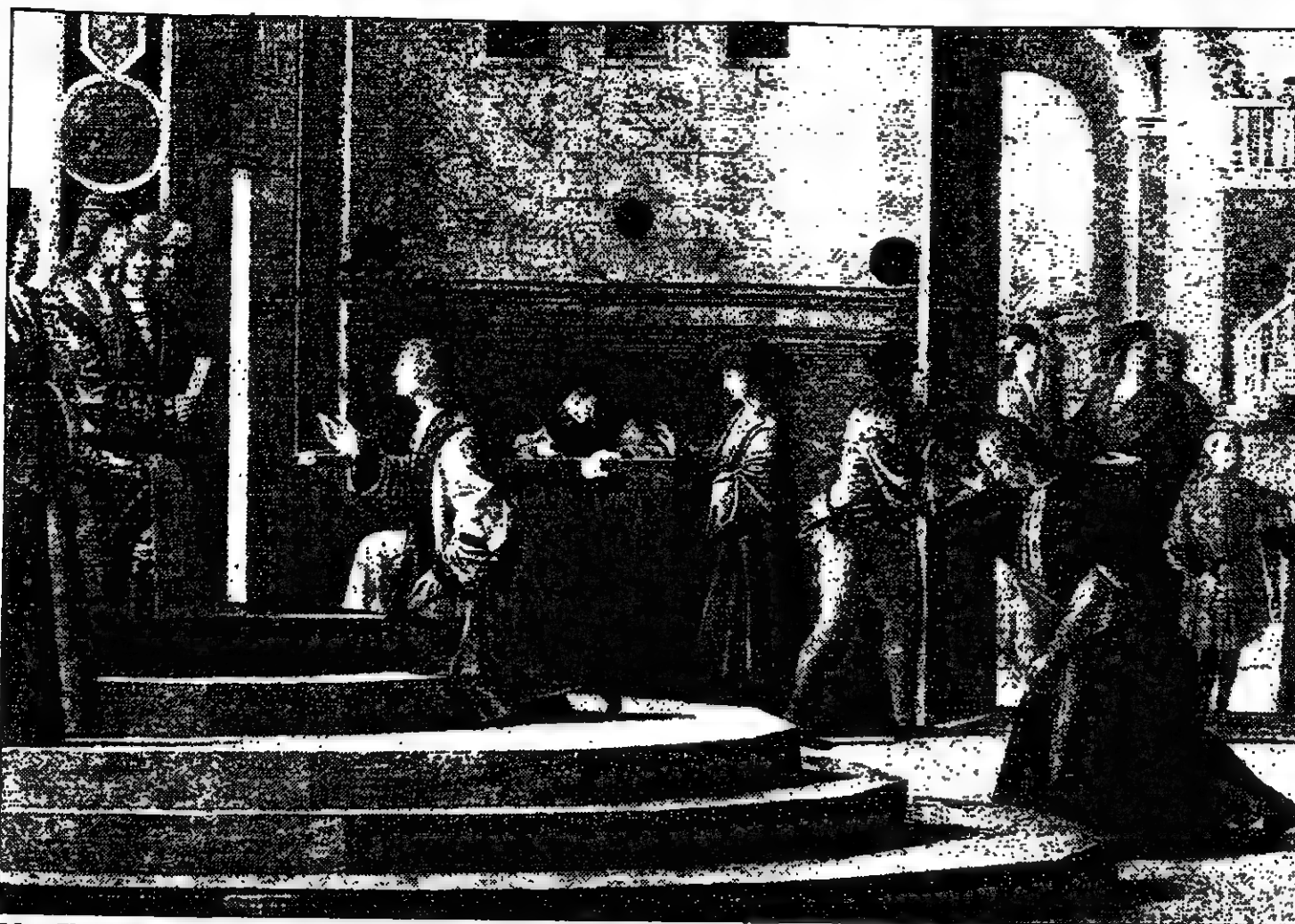
VENETIAN NARRATIVE
PAINTING IN THE
AGE OF CARPACCIO
by Patricia Fortini Brown
Yale, £35

Patricia Fortini Brown takes off from a typically loopy remark of Ruskin's that Carpaccio was "never to be thought of as a responsible person, but only as a kind of magic mirror which flashes back instantly whatever it sees beautifully arranged, but yet will flash back commonplace things often as faithfully as others".

But no, she argues, Carpaccio's was not an "innocent eye", he was telling stories. And like Gentile Bellini, Mantegna, and the other painters of civic and sacred narratives in Venice at the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries, he was telling them within a particular visual and conceptual framework. Consequently the "innocent eye" of the modern viewer may be "charmed" by these scenes (as Brown rather rudely puts it), but without benefit of background homework it misses a lot.

Brown's approach, then, to what she still calls the "eyewitness" manner of these artists is similar to Michael Baxandall's, and involves digging out contemporary documents, pictures, and anything else that will help recreate the "cognitive style" and the "period eye" of the painters and their original viewers.

There is no ideological axe being ground here, though there is the suggestion, not very seriously pursued, that narratives keep a society sane. She is in favour of saying, and doesn't surrender much to enthusiasm, apart from a certain scholarly glee in revealing how uncommonly alien were some of the ways of Venetian mind, (though there is



Mere illustration or a documentary in oils? The Departure of the Ambassadors, by Carpaccio, from the collection at the Accademia, Venice

nothing as boggling as Baxandall's suggestion that the mercantile eye of Piero saw people as corn-bags).

She first establishes that these pictures were regarded not simply as illustrations of stories, but in some way as themselves documentary evidence for the events they showed, and that consequently the painter's business was to make them look realistic. She then asks what counted as "realistic" for Venetians at this time, and finds the answer in the style of contemporary chronicles, with their gratuitous accumulation of not very relevant details around whatever is the main event. Which is not unlike — and however painstaking the scholarship, the connective reasoning is always a bit impressionistic — not unlike the sort of effects you find, say, in the series of paintings of "The Miracles of the True Cross", which fill a room in the

Accademia. Here the key incidents are often buried in a mass of other activities; as for example in Carpaccio's "Exorcism", where the miracle is lodged in the corner of a busy canal scene.

So he is not a "magic mirror", she argues, nor is he even making the point — what Auden says about Bruegel — that life goes on. He is just observing the conventions of his time and place. What makes the argument slightly awkward, of course, is that his criteria are oddly like our own, as Brown's use of the name "eye-witness" surely attests, even though his stories are in many ways "made up". And so it seems that really Ruskin wasn't so much mistaken as taken in; he thought what Carpaccio in a way wanted him to think.

With similar techniques, she answers many questions that might strike even the innocent

eye. Whence, for example, did Carpaccio and Gentile Bellini get their very clear ideas about parts of the world they had never been to? Not just from reconstituting Venice in Egypt, or from pure "imagination", rather it was a mixture of literal and visual hearsay, combined with oddments of their own experience. (Here, as throughout, the argument is well illustrated with other bits of visual evidence.)

Why does Carpaccio construct the romantic legend of St Ursula almost entirely in the form of a succession of civic ceremonies? Answer (in crude precis): he has processions in the head, they all did.

But here is a limitation too: Brown is only interested in the questions that get this sort of answer. And her "period" Carpaccio is, in different ways, not

much more of a "responsive person" than Ruskin's. Though she is all for emphasizing narrative as such, she is not very curious about the stories themselves. She describes very well the actions and set-ups of the St Ursula paintings, say, but does not relate the formalities to the unfolding adventure: something that would surely have been of concern to his contemporaries and, given narrative painting is "back" at the moment, is to us. And maybe thinking that narrative makes for sanity stops her from observing that Carpaccio is often a bit mad, gratuitous in ways that are not to be explained in these terms: or, to put that another way, a chapter on animals would have been very interesting. All the same, there are many fascinating facts and nothings here, and the pictures (40 full colour plates) are wonderful.

Black Sea sketches

FICTION

Elaine Feinstein

SCENES FROM
RUSSIAN LIFE
By Vladimir Soloukhin
Peter Owen, £13.95

IN THE COUNTRY OF
LAST THINGS
By Paul Auster
Faber & Faber, £9.95

SWEET DESERTS
By Lucy Ellman
Virago, £10.95

Here are three excellent writers who are continents apart in their preoccupations. In *Scenes from Russian Life*, Soloukhin writes with equal ease about the Moscow Writers' Union and peasant Russia, orchards of tangerines or a hunting expedition in winter. His stories assume that nothing that has happened this century has much changed basic human emotions: "There lives in man one age-long need — to share joy."

In the title story the narrator is at his very happiest, on holiday at the Black Sea with a beautiful young girlfriend, when a surgeon, rebuffed by the girl, taunts him with the information that the black head growing on his thigh is probably a melanoma. His dealings with the Soviet health service thereafter are described with dry wit: there is much about the human wish to be deceived. Soviet medical wisdom, it seems, does not much encourage doctors to give patients an accurate prognosis, in case the resulting gloom inhibits the immune response. Telling the truth is thought to be an American bad. Equivocal praise, since America is also mocked as the land where millionaires are put to sleep in ice so they can awake to future life as people return to consciousness after anaesthesia.

Soloukhin evokes more primitive emotions with coolness and clarity. In *Little Girl by the Edge of the Sea* he tells the story of a writer on holiday who, on an impulse, urges his troubled landlady not to have an abortion. Twelve years later he recognizes in the bare-lip of a little girl on the sea shore the consequence of that advice. The story is told as barely as Maupassant, so that the reader first feels a banal regret, and then is overwhelmed by overhearing in the voice of the mother chivvying a child to change her clothes how much the disfigurement has become an irrelevance.

Paul Auster imagines, in *In The Country of Last Things*, an apocalyptic extremity where the hand of every man is against every man: a vision of the future that works on us as it does by evoking the horrors of the European past. The central figure, Anna Blume, has travelled to an unnamed city in search of her lost brother. Most forms of food distribution have broken down, so that municipal shops only have job lots of

random goods like stale chocolate cake or radishes. Shelter is hard to find.

Anne Blume becomes one of those who live by scavenging for objects in the streets, alone at first and then in alliance with a couple who live in a brick apartment building, brought there by a woman she has rescued. Anna's relationship to that woman is one of the most moving in the book; she gives her succour when she is dying by pouring liquid on her tongue and in doing so recalls an incident from Primo Levi's account of Auschwitz. Her act of kindness offers a moment of relief in a world where people deliberately jog themselves to death, join assassination clubs or leap from windows.

The charm of Lucy Ellman's *Sweet Deserts* lies partly in the fact that it is hardly a novel at all, more of a witty monologue, and partly because the voice in which it speaks is so recognizably that of a new generation, just as the landscape (the novel moves between West Hampstead and Manhattan) is of modern cities.

The narrative includes recipes, personal ads from the sexually hungry, and old jokes from stand-up comics. The voice is that of Suzy Schwartz, whose strongest feelings are the wish to have considerably more unromantic modern coupling, sibling rivalry and a lust for cookies. Love for her father takes over the narrative when he is diagnosed as dying from a neurological illness. The loneliness of his suffering convinced me most sharply when he is choking, a moment which brings home horribly the essential separateness of human beings.

A Glass, darkly

Paul Griffiths

OPERA ON
THE BEACH
By Philip Glass
Faber & Faber, £17.50

Philip Glass's naivety is awe-inspiring, whether it is shown in the repeating patterns and colossal slowness of his music or now in his prose. What is one to make of a man who describes the Berlin Neferiti bust as "probably one of the best-known works of art of all time", and just a few pages later calls Akhnaten "a man so unusual, even unique, as to be virtually unprecedented in Egyptian, and therefore human, history"? And this is somebody who has written an opera about these people.

Evidently we are dealing with a man who is himself pretty unusual, even unique, and no doubt virtually unprecedented — except in so far as the roots of his music are to be found in Terry Riley and LaMonte Young, neither of whom he mentions. But the past is not his strong point. In speaking of his casting of Akhnaten as a counter-tenor, for instance, he is wrong to suggest that "Late Renaissance and Baroque operas routinely used this type of voice to sing female parts": that was a speciality of the castrati in Rome, where women were forbidden the stage. More serious, because one

might have hoped for more, is his discounting of his own history. It was, after all, in his works of the late Sixties and early Seventies that he learned how, through repetition, musical platitudes could become strange and wonderful. And yet these works are only briefly considered in a chapter headed "Apprenticeship of Sorts". For Glass, clearly, the important things are the three operas that had been completed before this book (there have been two since): *Einstein on the Beach*, *Satyagraha*, and *Akhmenet*, for all of which he gives commentaries, musical notes, and librettos.

It is rather as if Gertrude Stein, having said "a rose is a rose is a rose", had been persuaded that she was making excellent sense, and encouraged to answer the riddle of the universe.

Laying bare the daily trivia of the Windsors

Hugo Vickers

THE SECRET FILE OF
THE DUKE OF
WINDSOR
By Michael Bloch
Bantam Books, £14.95

Michael Bloch would have us believe that this book has been brewing since 1975, and that the Duchess "confided many documents into the care of her French lawyer and confidante, Maître Suzanne Blum, along with written instructions that they were to form the basis of a book relating the unknown story of the Duke's exile". In the correspondence columns of this paper, Bloch declared that this authorization was dated 17 May 1975. I wrote in reply, hoping that scholars might be allowed to see this document. I am not wholly surprised that, like previous such

challenges, my request has been unanswered.

I have long found the ramifications of the abdication crisis an absorbing study, but having read Mr Bloch's book, I think I have had enough. I do not believe that the Duke or Duchess would have wanted it published, nor would anyone wish such private letters to come out in this way, especially as they themselves emerge in such a dismal light.

Mr Bloch's approach is nothing if not partisan to the Windsors. He states more than once that the Duke "was ignored by the court

and all of his relations. He was unable to see any of them except for a single meeting with the King". The one person that Bloch finds it hard to fault is the present Queen. When criticizing the Duchess's funeral arrangements

he might have put on record the fact that the Queen, the Queen Mother and a number of the Royal Family were present, but I suppose he felt that this weakened his case.

It would be wrong if I did not concede that there is some new material in this book, though a great deal of it we could do without. For example, Bloch takes it upon himself to paraphrase a letter from Queen Mary's physician explaining the way she was dying, and quotes the embittered Duke's verdict after her death: "I'm afraid the fluids in her veins

have always been as icy cold as they now are in death." Would any son wish this published about his mother? Would the Duke or Duchess wish us to know that he suffered from colitis?

I am sorry that the Windsors have not been allowed to rest in peace. And above all that Maître Blum did not cease her activities on their behalf following the highly successful jewellery sale in Geneva last year. I see no point in dragging up all the petty bickering of the past. The cause of the Windsors was ill-served by the publication of this book.

Landed, if not gentry

Jonathan Meades

THE ALLOTMENT:
ITS LANDSCAPE
AND CULTURE
By David Crouch
and Colin Ward
Faber & Faber, £13.95

Colin Ward is a topological investigator of neglected landscapes, despised eyesores, places that planners and tourist boards wish had never happened. A few years ago he wrote, with Dennis Hardy, an enthralling history of the south-east's coastal and rural shanty settlements, places where the urban working class could recreate itself or returning servicemen could, after the Great War, go some way towards realizing Jesse Collings's vision of "three acres and a cow".

Allotments may not connote the ad hoc Utopianism that the "plotlands" do, but they are born of the same impulse towards self-help and productive leisure, and they too have fostered an hermetic culture which is a rich pit for the oral historian.

This importance (unlike the authors' prose) goes far beyond the utilitarian; indeed, the actual cultivation of vegetables which will suffer the fate of becoming food is at best only an excuse for English men — they're nearly all men — to build alternative castles, havens from the home, mysterious organisms whose huts, like nests, are often ingeniously constructed from found objects.

They go in for the horticultural perversions of giant leeks and mega-marrows, for pigeons, for pottering about the hut where "fancy women" have been kept



and where whole families, turned out of pit cottages, have lived. The authors, last year, found a homeless man living on an allotment in the north-east; it is surprising that, given the indigence and long-term unemployment that is seemingly endemic to that part of the country, they did not find many more.

For those of us who are drawn to autumn smoke on the fringes of towns and who admire the functional beauty and resourcefulness of improvised structures and of a land use which is bizarrely akin to the Celtic open strip field system, I suspect that allotment politics (which, with its schisms and busybodies, is like all other politics) will be something of a bore.

But it should not be thus dismissed for the endless pamphlets and pressure groups bear witness to a struggle of vital moment at a time when people simply could not afford to eat. The fact that the result of that century-old struggle is the right to grow a four-foot leek is neither here nor there: the creation of the allotment movement and the consequent Allotment Acts of 1887 and 1908 were tiny steps on the path away from the virtual enslavement that the urban working class enjoyed in the 19th century. In a small way allotments allowed people otherwise deprived of it to experience self-respect and autonomy.

The grave mystery of allotments seems especially poignant. Carl Weight and Stanley Spencer have touched on this mystery which is unexplainable; Messrs Crouch and Ward are, as sociologists must be, far too materialistic to risk contamination by such matters. I think they want the world to stay a prosy place.

NEW BOOKS

The Deputy Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

Like Lions They Fought — The Last Zulu War, by Robert Edgerton (Weidenfeld, £14.95). The "celebrate manslaying gladiators", of Victorian myth. Flipping stuff.
Nikolsky, by Derek Parker (Equation, £14.95). *Le Figaro* in 1912 called him "filthy", "bestial", "crude" and "loathsome". Off-stage he looked like a bank clerk.
Broker of Death, by Hermann Moll with Michael Leppman (Macmillan, £12.95). Moll was arrested for dealing arms to Iran, but was saved by the Iran-Contra scandal. "Potentially explosive revelations."
Nothing to Forgive, by Lyndell P. Hopkinson (Chatto, £12.95) A life of novelist Antonia White by one of her daughters. Attempts to set the record straight after the previous blog by her other daughter, Susan Chitty.

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Sylvia Cosh
James Walters

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Terence Moore, TLS February 12 1988

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TLS

INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN



BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
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THEATRE
LONDON

THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON: J.M. Barrie's other desert island play, with Rex Harrison as the title earl and Edward Fox as his perfect butler. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (01-330 9832). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30-10pm, mats Wed, Sat 3-5.50pm. £2-11.

DON'T GO AWAY MADE US: Victor Michael Williams in his production over here of William Somerset Maugham's play of 1948. Donmar Warehouse, 41 Earlham St, WC2 (01-40 8230). Tube: Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30-10.15, mats Wed and Sat 3-5.45pm. £2-11.

DRIVING MISS DAISY: Wendy Hiller, Barry Foster, Clarke Peters in this year's Pulitzer prizewinner, the relationship between an elderly Jewess and her black chauffeur. Fragile material but fine acting. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-40 2266). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 8-9.30pm, mats Sat 5-8.30pm. £2-14.

HAPPY FEAST: Puzing new Tom Stoppard play. Spies, physics and misunderstandings with Nigel Hawthorne, Roger Rees, Felicity Kendal and Ian Cullen. Aldwych Theatre, Aldwych WC2 (01-330 6404). Tube: Covent Garden. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 8-11pm, mats Wed 2.30-5.30pm and Sat 4-7pm. £2-15.

KEEPING TOM NICE: Lucy Gannon's award-winning play, directed by Bill Boffington, the story of a family coping with a handicapped son. Almeida Theatre, Almeida St, N1 (01-330 4404). Tube: Highbury and Islington. Opens tonight 7pm, then in repertory, £2-50-£2.50.

MOODLIANE: Jonathan Clegg is a painter of almond-eyed girls in this Off-Broadway success. New End Theatre, 27 New End, NW3 (01-734 0222). Tube: Hampstead. Opens tonight 7pm, then Tues-Sun, 8pm, £2, £2.50 concessions.

SOUTH PACIFIC: Gemma Craven and Emile Meyer in magnificent staged revival. Palace of Wales Theatre, Coventry Street, W1 (01-330 5589). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat 2.30pm. £2-50-£2.50.

THE YEMOIN OF THE GUARD: Revised D.O. Kelly's play about a present-day soldier and his close encounter with real opera. Cambridge Theatre, Seven Dials, WC2 (01-379 5289). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 7.30-10.30pm, mats Wed and Sat 3-5.50pm. In rep with *Intimate*, playing one week each and changing every Thurs. £7.50-21.50, mats £2-12.

ZIEGFELD: Topical steps into the lead to latest bid to save the £2million show. London Palladium, 8 Argyll Street, W1 (01-437 7373). Tube: Oxford Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, mats Wed and Sat 2.45-5.30pm. £2.25-£21.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 10

FURFURACEOUS (b) Covered with small scales, like bark or dandruff, from the Latin *furfur* the husks of grain, sc. brass.

ONEIRODYNIA (a) A nightmare, or a propensity to having nightmares, from the Greek *oneiros* a dream + *dynai* distressing.

PHYRETIC (c) Feverish, from the Greek *phus* fire, and *retic* contrast. *Feverish* "Already the broadcasted facts of every copious and burst had turned, greasy, sealing their points away for the time of cold."

(d) According to the *OED* a sparkling word for a gem or jewel; so *zinnied* would mean covered with jewels, quite a nice word, even if spurious.

LONG RUNNERS: ★ *And Then There Were None*: Strand Theatre (01-436 2000). ★ *Beyond a Reasonable Doubt*: Queen's Theatre (01-734 1166). ★ *Cats*: New London Theatre (01-408 0072, cc 01-404). ★ *Les Miserables*: Palace Theatre (01-379 5399). ★ *2nd Street*: Drury Lane Theatre (01-330 8108/9). ★ *Kiss Me Kate*: Savoy Theatre (01-330 6111). ★ *Lee Leisons Dangerous*: Ambassadors Theatre (01-330 6111). ★ *Me and My Girl*: Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7913/4). ★ *Les Miserables*: Palace Theatre (01-379 5399). ★ *The Mousetrap*: St Martin's Theatre (01-330 1443). ★ *The Phantom of the Opera*: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-330 2441). ★ *Red, White and Blue*: Criterium Theatre (01-330 3216). ★ *Starlight Express*: Apollo Victoria (01-330 8665).

OUT OF TOWN

CHICHESTER: ★ *Ring Around the Moon*: Acoustic's bitter-sweet comedy of love and money. Stary east includes Jose Ferrer in his British stage debut. Festival Theatre, Chichester, (0243 781312). Mon-Thurs 7.30pm. Thurs mat 2.30pm. £2-12.50.

FILMS

Also on national release in advance booking possible

BABETTE'S FEAST (UK): One of Karen Blixen's lighter tales, immaculately transferred to the screen by a fellow Dane, Gabriel Axel. With Bette Midler as a Danish aristocrat's chef who tests her skills on an austere religious community (105 min). Cannon Premiere (01-438 4470). Progs 2.45, 5.00, 7.25, 9.45. Rerec (01-337 8402). Progs 2.10, 4.30, 6.35, 8.50.

BROADCAST NEWS (15): Sick drama about network TV journalism from James L. Brooks (Terms of Endearment) with William Hurt, Albert Brooks, Holly Hunter as the trio caught in a jumble of professional and romantic problems (132 min). Cannon Premiere (01-330 8631). Progs 2.05, 4.40, 7.35.

THE COUCH TRIP: Dan Aykroyd plays an anarcho-prisoner who escapes, impersonates a psychiatrist, takes over a radio phone-in show and becomes a media celebrity (98 min). Orion High Street Kensington (01-502 5644). Progs 1.35, 3.50, 6.10, 8.35. Rerec (01-330 8402). Progs 2.45, 5.00, 7.25, 9.45. Rerec (01-337 8402). Progs 2.10, 4.30, 6.35, 8.50.

A HANDFUL OF DUST (PG): Directed by Charles Sturridge. James Wilby and Kristin Scott Thomas star in Evelyn Waugh's savage novel (118 min). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.10, 4.40, 7.35. Rerec (01-330 8402). Progs 2.45, 5.00, 7.25, 9.45. Rerec (01-337 8402). Progs 2.10, 4.30, 6.35, 8.50.

HAWKS: British black comedy, set in the fleshpots of Amsterdam and London, with Timothy Dalton and Anthony Edwards as two men faced with the prospect of death. Written by Roy Lee of the *Summer Wine* (110 min). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.10, 4.40, 7.35. Rerec (01-330 8402). Progs 2.45, 5.00, 7.25, 9.45. Rerec (01-337 8402). Progs 2.10, 4.30, 6.35, 8.50.

THE JUNGLE BOOK (UK): Revival of the classic Disney cartoon based on Rudyard Kipling's stories, with knockabout visual gags and simple but effective animation (78 min). Cannon Oxford Street (01-330 0130). Progs 1.20, 3.45, 6.10, 8.35. Rerec (01-330 8402). Progs 2.45, 5.00, 7.25, 9.45. Rerec (01-337 8402). Progs 2.10, 4.30, 6.35, 8.50.

NON-FICTION
1 *A Brief History of Time*, Stephen King Barham £12.95
2 *Young Bettemann*, B. Hiller John Murray £14.95
3 *The Secret File of the Duke of Windsor*, Barham £14.95
4 *Dunes*, Andrew Morton O'Mara £10.95
5 *Never Despair - Winston Churchill 1845-65*, Martin Gilbert Heinemann £25.00

PAPERBACKS
1 *Moon Tiger*, Penelope Lively Penguin £ 3.99
2 *In the Land of Dr. Howard Jacobson* Faber £ 3.95
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10 *A Handful of Dust*, Evelyn Waugh Penguin £ 3.99



Pecking order: pigeon man and cricket fan Arthur (Ian Mercer) and his suffering wife Amy (Julia Lane)

The fancy man homes in

In his latest comedy, *The Fancy Man*, Mike Stott returns to the theme that brought him his greatest success 12 years ago with *Fanny Peculiar* - how to bring back fun, games and a sense of direction into a marriage that has lost its sexual way. In his 1976 hit *Richard Beckinsale* tried to introduce his partner to unfamiliar practices: this time Stott looks at the problem from the female side. Arthur (Ian Mercer) cares more for his pigeons and a good game of cricket than for his adoring wife Amy (Julia Lane), who decides to start something to bring him back to her. The play's novelty lies in the way a private problem soon becomes a matter of public concern, with the whole town on tenterhooks to learn the truth of what appears to be going on. As the pigeons and the cricket suggest, Stott places his comedy in the north of England, and, unlike the bang-up-to-the-minute world of *Fanny Peculiar*, the time is the early 1970s. Alan Dossar again directs and the cast includes Bernard Gallagher as the local doctor, confidant and go-between. *The Fancy Man*, Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (01-722 9301). Previewing from tonight 8pm. Opens August 17, 7pm, £2-7.50. Jeremy Kingston

CONCERTS

COMPLETE HAT: Fells's ballet *The Three-Cornered Hat* is given complete by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the ladies of the Holst Singers plus Margaret Marshall (soprano) and Christine Cairns (mezzo). But first comes Mendelssohn's incidental music to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Richard Strauss's *Die Frau ohne Schatten*. Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (01-589 8212, cc 01-379 4444). 7.30pm, £2-10.

CLASSICAL POP: The London Concert Orchestra is conducted by Fraser Gouding in such old favourites as Johann Strauss II's *Emperor Waltz*, Tchaikovsky's *Capriccio Italien*, Bruch's *Violin Concerto No 1* (violist, Jack Rothstein), Ravel's *Polka*, Bizet's

OPERA

LA TRAVIATA: Healthy revival of Peter Hall's production, now with Fiorella Biondini and Walter MacNeil. Sign Edwards conducts. Glyndebourne, Llewellyn, Essex. Essex (0273 541111). 5.50-9.50pm, returns only.

ROCK

JOAN ARMSTRADG: Promoting her 12th album, *The Sound of Silence*, this is Armstrong's first tour in over two years. Will be touring with her new band, The Sound of Silence, Commercial Road, Southampton (0703 228771) 8pm, £2-10.50.

SAAM MANGWANA: Zairean singer and composer. His biggest breakthrough was in 1982 with his acclaimed recording of the Congo classic *Mama Tshale*. Back in the international spotlight, promoting last year's successful *Alibi* album. Town & Country, 9-17 Highgate Road, London NW3 (01-267 3354) 7.30pm, £2.50-£7.50.

THE LORDS OF THE NEW CHURCH: Second division punks rapidly slipping into terminal decline. The new band, Balthazar, Balthazar, Downtown Tavern, Downtown Way, Bromley (01-685 5099) 7.30pm, £4.50-£5.50.

JAZZ

ADUALLAH IBRAHIM: After his triumphant Astoria concert, the South African pianist returns for a solo piano recital, less according to his own wish, with Elays but rewarding all the same. Watermark Arts Centre, 1170 High Street, Brentford (01-568 1170) 10pm, £2.

DON WELLS: The ever-dependable tenor player appears tonight with the Joe Pina Trio.

BEST SELLING BOOKS

For the week ending August 6

FICTION
1 *Café de Paris*, Nicholas Wollaston Constable £10.95
2 *Love in the Time of Cholera*, G. Garcia Marquez Cape £11.95
3 *The Shell and the Dustbin*, G. MacDonald Fraser Collins Harvill £10.95
4 *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, Tom Wolfe Cape £12.95
5 *Summer's Lease*, John Mortimer Viking £10.95

NON-FICTION
1 *A Brief History of Time*, Stephen King Barham £12.95
2 *Young Bettemann*, B. Hiller John Murray £14.95
3 *The Secret File of the Duke of Windsor*, Barham £14.95
4 *Dunes*, Andrew Morton O'Mara £10.95
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8 *The Remake*, Clive James Picador £ 3.95
9 *Historic Houses Castles*, G. Dawkins British Leisure £ 3.50
10 *A Handful of Dust*, Evelyn Waugh Penguin £ 3.99

Source: Hatchards, 187 Piccadilly, London W1

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1639

ACROSS

- 1 Vinea plant (10)
- 2 Everlasting (7)
- 3 Supercilious minister (5)
- 4 Noisy (4)
- 5 Washing up room (8)
- 6 Very steep (5)
- 7 Wailing signal (5)
- 8 Cite intricately (8)
- 9 Whip (4)
- 10 Additional jury statement (5)
- 11 Mine (7)
- 12 Rich reversible silk (4,2,4)

DOWN

- 1 Date (7)
- 2 Rip (4)
- 3 Spontaneous work stoppage (7,6)
- 4 Fiction writer (8)
- 5 French school (5)
- 6 Restore (4)
- 7 Colouring stick (8)
- 8 Fussy dress ornament (8)
- 9 Melancholy (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 1638

ACROSS: 3 Wise 5 Str 8 Piece 10 Loving cup 11 Numbs 12 Hug 13 Tenor 14 Emanuele 16 Baldric 18 Aspic 20 Lop 22 Ozon 23 Etretal 24 Rate 25 Next 26 Kris

DOWN: 1 Spinet 2 Terminal 3 Welsh rarebit 4 Savage 6 Tack 7 Ripple 9 Indianapolis 15 Approval 16 Barren 17 Claver 19 Crend 21 Syx

ENTERTAINMENTS

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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 01-379

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Jane Rackham

BBC1

- 6.00** Ceefax A.M. News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletins.
6.35 *Alan Ford in Pretty Dolly* (b/w).
6.55 *Weather*.
7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Pamela Armstrong and Kirsty Wark. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 7.55, 8.25 and 8.55 regional news and travel reports at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27.
8.35 *Pat - Fugitive Dog* starring Gary Gray (b/w). 8.55 Regional news and weather.
9.00 News and weather 9.05 *But First This* presented by Andy Crane begins with *The Pink Panther Show*. Three cartoons (r).
9.25 *Why Don't You...?* Entertaining ideas for bored youngsters (r).
9.50 *Laurel and Hardy*. Cartoon.
10.00 News and weather followed by *Silas*. Episodes of a young man who runs away from a cruel circus owner (r). (Ceefax) 10.30 *Play School* presented by Brian Jameson with guest Janet Palmer (r). 10.55 *Five to Eleven* with pupils from St Anne's Primary School.
11.00 News and weather followed by *Reland and Rastafar*. Cartoon 11.10 *Newsnight* (b/w). The final episode of the adventure serial 11.20 *Superman*. The fighter of evil comes to the aid of an ageing Indian warrior. Starring George Reavus.
12.00 News and weather followed by *The Garden Party* with Viv Lindes and Eamonn Holmes. Today Maria Nicholson talks to the adventurous brothers Lawrence and Lorne Blair 12.55 Regional news and weather.
1.00 One O'Clock News with Martin Lewis. Weather. 1.30 *Neighbours*. Scott is a broken man now that Charlene decides to go to Queensland.

BBC2

- 6.55** *Open University: Inner City* (2). Ends at 7.30. 8.00 *Ceefax* 1.20 *Chock-a-Block* (r). 1.35 *Ceefax*.
1.50 News and weather followed by *Highway Codes*. Motorway driving (r). 2.30 *Italians*. A portrait of the Communist mayor of Montefiore, Dino Labriola (r).
3.00 News and weather followed by *Quers to Kew*. The religious and immigrant communities of Spitalfields (r). 3.40 *Northern Arts*. Sculptor John Atkin at his studio near Darlington (r). 3.50 News, regional news and weather.
4.00 *Dr Kildare*. Episode two of the medical drama serial (r). 4.25 *Boasting Butler*. Tony Butler explores life on and around the White House and the White House (r).
5.00 *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. The first of a series of five programmes. With Lorna Dallas, Bob Childs and the Tempestarian Band conducted by Jack Burch (first shown on BBC Northern Ireland).
6.30 *Eating Out with Tovey*. (see Choice)

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00** TV-am begins with *The Morning Programme* introduced by Richard Keys. 7.00 *Good Morning Britain* presented by Anne Diamond and Richard Keys. 8.50 *Weekend* for the young, with Timmy Mallett.
9.25 *Thames news and weather* 9.30 *Whose Baby?* Nanette Newman, Nino Pireto and Ted Rogers try to guess the identities of the celebrity parents of a succession of toddlers. Presented by Bernie Winters.
10.00 *Hi-Man and the Masters of the Universe* (r). 10.25 News headlines 10.30 *Bugs Bunny* (r). 10.35 *The Wuzzles* (r). 11.00 *Tower* (r). 11.10 *Puddle Lane*. Puppet series presented by Neil Innes (r). 11.25 *Thames news and weather* 11.30 *Plants for Free*. Plant propagation series (r). (Oracle) 12.00 *Knight Rider* starring David Hasselhoff (r). 12.30 *Santa Barbara*.
1.00 *News at One* with Jon Snow 1.20 *Thames news and weather* 1.30 *Randall & Hopkirk* (Deceased). An old lady's life is put in danger when it is learned that she has perfected a foolproof gambling system. Starring Mike Pratt and Kenneth Cope (r).
2.30 *All Our Yesterdays*. Bernard Braden recalls the Great Train Robbery with archive newsclips 3.00 *Take the High Road*. Drama serial set in the Scottish Highlands 3.25 *Thames news and weather* 3.30 *Sons and Daughters*. Australian family drama serial (r).
4.00 *Tumbledown Farm* 4.15 *The Bike*. A film without dialogue about a boy who wants a cycle he cannot afford 4.45 *Pacific Station* (Oracle).
5.15 *Give Us a Clue*. Celebrity charades (r).
5.45 *News with Fiona Armstrong* 6.00 *Thames news and weather* 6.30 *Emmerdale Farm*. Mrs Bates found a companion?

CHANNEL 4

- 12.00** *Just 4 Fun*. Three programmes for children (r).
12.30 *Business Daily*.
1.00 *Sesame Street*. Pre-school series. The guest is Joe Williams.
2.00 *Farm*. Mandy Patinkin and 11.00 *12 programmes* in which Gerald and Lee Durrill explore the different ways animals communicate (r).
6.30 *Goys*. Episode three of the short dramatized life of the Spanish painter. (Oracle).
10.00 *True Stories: The Other Bomb*. (Oracle) (see Choice).
11.00 *Kellogg's Tour of Britain*. Stage three: Manchester to Liverpool, during which the cyclists cover a distance of 117 miles.
12.00 *Elegy* (1972) starring Yilmaz Guney. Turkish-made drama about a notorious leader of a gang of smugglers who is wounded in a gun battle and treated by a woman doctor. Directed by Yilmaz Guney. Ends at 1.30am.

Explosive collaboration



In pursuit of physics: Professor Nicholas Riehl, a German scientist who was persuaded by the Russians to do research work on the bomb during the Second World War (C4, 10.00pm)

TELEVISION CHOICE

When the BBC did a documentary last year on former Nazi scientists working on the US space programme, we got something quite flashy, a documentary comic strip. This was taken a step further by the BBC with *Mafia Wars*, which looked like a cross between *Roy Lichtenstein* and *Miami Vice*. The other bomb (C4, 10.00pm), the story of the other German atomic scientists, those coerced by the Soviets, is a conventional documentary that rather shows up the limitations of Channel 4's resources compared with the BBC's no state-of-the-art stuff here, just some very rudimentary reconstruction, archive footage, and talking heads, none of whom are questioned very hard about their successive collaborations. Those interviewed preferred their Soviet masters if only because the Russians took atomic research more seriously than the Nazis, to whom it was all Jewish physics and there

fore not a worthy Aryan pursuit. About all the Nazi atomic programme achieved, if one contributor is to be believed, was to keep its participants out of the army and the fighting. When the Russians came, it was the turn of the scientists to get their midnight knock on the door, after, it should be added, being stuffed with food of unimaginable luxury and vodka by their new masters. In Russia they were privileged in a dubious sort of way, being directly answerable to Beria, whose protection they enjoyed, if nervously. On the evidence presented here, few questioned their work, and most conduct themselves less like scientists than bureaucrats with myopia. One or two did develop a conscience about their work, especially when it became clear

that they were building rockets capable of reaching Germany. ● More camp cooking in the dominant tradition of TV cuisine is to be found in *Eating Out With Tovey* (BBC2, 5.30pm). John Tovey, a Lakeland restaurateur who, while not given to slurping as much as Keith Floyd, is still prone to splashing the morning grapefruit segments with crème de menthe, and lacing the porridge with whisky. This evening Tovey lays a Cumberland scenery, who remains polite if non-committal. I was reminded of a much more forthright Texan woman I saw once, enormous to the point of obesity, eating an English breakfast in Harrod's, who, when confronted by the full house, remarked to her husband: "If this is what they eat for breakfast every day, then no wonder the British have problems."

Chris Petit

The Giardino of Eden

RADIO CHOICE

Patience Gray, the elegant writer on natural foods, whose unassuming life is the agro-chemical, has chosen to exile herself to an area of southern Italy which exactly reflects her thinking on eating. With her Flemish sculptor companion called Norman, she lives surrounded by nature that is unimpaired by human hand. Over a plate of Apulian chick peas, served under a fig tree, she tells Derek Cooper in *Prophets Returned* (Radio 4, 11.25am) of the fantastic spurs of energy she and Norman get after a weed lunch, how she serves pasta to friends suffering from nerves, and how she finds that the act of pounding herbs, garlic and spices with her pestle and mortar is as much of a spiritual pick-up-up as the process of eating them. Norman's views on food com-



Derek Cooper has some food for thought (R4, 11.25am)

plements her's because he says she transforms nature's gifts into something that rejoices the heart of man. The way he says it indicates that he has his own heart in mind. Patience Gray does not feel contempt for designer foods: she simply does not contemplate their existence. After all, she knows

that it was not the chefs of princes and prelates who invented the world's great dishes, but country people and fishermen. ● *Rebels* (Radio 4, 8.30pm) whitewashes the Redskins, and blackwashes the Whiteskins. It dramatically amends the popular image of the Apache warrior Geronimo. No hint here of the whooping savage of the movies who indiscriminately butchers every white man in sight. Instead, we get a picture of a deeply religious man whose fearful campaign against non-Indian life was justified retaliation for his family's murder. Astonishingly, it took 5,000 US soldiers, 5,000 Mexicans to vanquish just 39 of Geronimo's followers - and 19 of these were women and children. And when they surrendered, instead of the dignified life in a reservation they were promised, they were kept as POWs for 27 years.

Peter Davalle

VARIATIONS

- BBC1** *Wales Today* 6.30-7.00 News followed by *Neighbours* 7.25-8.00 *Wales Today* 8.00-8.30 *Wales Today* 8.30-9.00 *Wales Today* 9.00-9.30 *Wales Today* 9.30-10.00 *Wales Today* 10.00-10.30 *Wales Today* 10.30-11.00 *Wales Today* 11.00-11.30 *Wales Today* 11.30-12.00 *Wales Today* 12.00-12.30 *Wales Today* 12.30-1.00 *Wales Today* 1.00-1.30 *Wales Today* 1.30-2.00 *Wales Today* 2.00-2.30 *Wales Today* 2.30-3.00 *Wales Today* 3.00-3.30 *Wales Today* 3.30-4.00 *Wales Today* 4.00-4.30 *Wales Today* 4.30-5.00 *Wales Today* 5.00-5.30 *Wales Today* 5.30-6.00 *Wales Today* 6.00-6.30 *Wales Today* 6.30-7.00 *Wales Today* 7.00-7.30 *Wales Today* 7.30-8.00 *Wales Today* 8.00-8.30 *Wales Today* 8.30-9.00 *Wales Today* 9.00-9.30 *Wales Today* 9.30-10.00 *Wales Today* 10.00-10.30 *Wales Today* 10.30-11.00 *Wales Today* 11.00-11.30 *Wales Today* 11.30-12.00 *Wales Today* 12.00-12.30 *Wales Today* 12.30-1.00 *Wales Today* 1.00-1.30 *Wales Today* 1.30-2.00 *Wales Today* 2.00-2.30 *Wales Today* 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dscape
Catalogue of RAF accidents 1982-1988
erfection
PM
YESTERDAY
MANCHESTER
TODAY

MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1482.1 (-19.0)	US dollar 1.8885 (+0.0035)
FT-SE 100 1689.9 (-22.7)	W German mark 3.2385 (+0.0109)
USM (Datastream) 168.61 (-0.97)	Trade-weighted 76.7 (+0.1)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

S&N pays £33m for Albion

Smith & Nephew, the Nivea-to-Elastoplast group, has bought the manufacturer of Simple and Cidal toiletries for £33 million.

The Albion group which manufactures the fragrance-free products at Corby, Northamptonshire, made pretax profits of £2.2 million in the year to December 1987. The company is owned by a group of unnamed private individuals with 31 controlling a 27 per cent stake.

Mr John Rennocks, of S&N, said that the enlarged group would be Britain's biggest single producer of toiletry products by value and volume.

The consideration will be paid through a mixture of cash of £10.6 million, S&N shares worth £2.6 million, and a three-year loan note at 7 7/8 per cent for the remaining £19.8 million.

Simon ahead

Simon Engineering, benefitting from a general improvement in profitability, shows pre-tax profits of £11.74 million for the six months ended June 30, compared with £9.41 million, and is raising the interim dividend from 2.7p to 3.5p. *Times, page 22*

Vickers sale

Vickers has sold German-based Comforo Corp, part of its office furniture division, to Haworth, a Michigan private company, for £17.5 million in cash.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2050.85 (-28.28)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	27554.57 (-615.48)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2579.38 (-54.89)
Amsterdam	AEX	281.0 (-3.8)
Sydney	AO	1633.0 (-24.3)
Frankfurt	DAX	1479.9 (-22.4)
Brussels	General	4966.3 (-5.3)
Paris	CAC	476.4 (-2.7)
Zurich	SIX	476.4 (-2.7)
London	FT-30	1482.1 (-19.0)
FT-100		1689.9 (-22.7)
FT-Industrial		1724.4 (-4.6)
FT-Financial		97.25 (-0.48)
FT-Govt Secs		87.98 (-0.33)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

IRISH	Irish Dist	291.50 (+18.0)
Standard Chart		517.40 (+14.0)
Chemical		630.00 (+10.0)
Whitbread		470.00 (+10.0)
Sovereign Oil		158.50 (+14.0)
BPP		365.00 (+10.0)
FALLS:		
Hogg Robinson		172.50 (-18.0)
Glaxo		640.00 (-18.0)
Bass		77.00 (-11.0)
Cadbury		379.00 (-10.0)
Christie Int'l		475.00 (-14.0)
Peaterson		785.00 (-12.0)
Peaterson		785.00 (-12.0)
Henderson Adam		715.00 (-20.0)
Closing prices		
Share		25086

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base:	11%
3-month interbank 11 1/4%	
3-month eligible bills 10 1/2%-10 3/4%	
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	9 1/2%
Federal Funds	7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills	7.05-7.04%
30-year bonds	9 1/4%-9 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£ \$1.8885	£ \$1.8880
£ DM 2.3885	£ DM 2.3880
£ Sfr 2.7041	£ Sfr 2.7035
£ FF 6.5590	£ FF 6.5585
£ Yen 227.18	£ Yen 227.15
£ Index 78.7	£ Index 78.7
ECU 10.44352	SDR 10.75888

GOLD

London Pading:	AM \$426.95 pm \$427.20
close \$427.25-427.75 (\$258.00-258.50)	
New York:	Comex \$427.80-428.30

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sept) pm \$15.05bbl (\$15.27)
Denotes latest trading price

THE TIMES
STOCK WATCH
0898 141 141

● Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: Sovereign Oil and Gas (02376) leapt 17p. Hopes for a bid from Grand Metropolitan pushed Irish Distillers (02380) 21p higher. Simon Engineering (01458) lifted 5p and Frost Group (04101) surged 12p.
● Recent additions include: TVS Entertainment 7.4p. Conv. Pref. 03413: Dukeminster 03411: Seriff Cowells 02896: Pennine Resources 08375.
● Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

BAT steps up Farmers fight with \$5bn bid

By John Bell, City Editor

BAT, the tobacco to financial services group, launched a surprise \$5 billion (£2.95 billion) offer aimed at winning a swift victory in its long-running battle for control of Farmers Inc, the leading US insurance group. The new bid is the largest made by a British company outside the oil industry.

BAT, offering an extra \$630 million as a sweetener for just 10 days. The new bid will be withdrawn on August 19 if the beleaguered Farmers board has not by then entered into a definitive merger agreement. BAT's offer will then revert to its earlier terms worth \$4.4 billion.

This novel move won immediate support from analysts in London and America. It places enormous pressure on Mr Leo Denlea, the Farmers chairman, and his fellow directors, who have so far refused even to discuss terms with BAT.

Farmers shareholders have become increasingly unhappy about the lack of response from their board. The US group is facing at least three legal actions by shareholders who wish to accept the BAT terms. And at the last closing date for BAT's earlier offer, worth \$63 a share against the new \$72 offer, more than 30 per cent of the Farmers stock

had been tendered to the British company.

BAT's "take it or leave it" bid represents a 67 per cent premium over the \$45 pre-bid level of Farmers shares last January and is 25 per cent higher than the market price this week.

Until BAT moved to break the log-jam yesterday, the Farmers bid looked likely to run for many more months in a series of legal appeals and counter appeals in the US courts.

The catalyst for the latest move was a court decision in California. Farmers' home state and largest income base, overturning an adverse ruling

Comment.....23

by the state insurance commission. Analysts see the California decision as the most important of the state regulatory hearings.

Mr Patrick Sheehy, chairman of BAT, said: "The green lights from the court and the insurance regulators have confirmed our view that we can satisfy the statutory requirements. By entering into a mutually satisfactory merger agreement now, BAT and Farmers can achieve an earlier closing of the transaction to the obvious benefit of Farmers' stockholders."

BAT said that, together with favourable rulings in Arizona and Ohio, states representing

74.2 per cent of Farmers' 1987 premiums have effectively approved the acquisition or are not required to take action.

At the increased offer price BAT said it expects no significant dilution of earnings next year, the first full year of acquisition. Its net debt to equity ratio would be unlikely to exceed 70 per cent if the acquisition were completed before end-December 1988, and would then decrease rapidly.

Turning the screw further, BAT said that if Farmers did not accept the new proposal, the passage of time and additional legal costs made it increasingly unlikely that it would again offer to raise its price above \$63 a share.

Farmers said its board would give "careful consideration" to the new proposals. It noted that the proposed deal must be approved by nine states and that three had rejected it. Farmers also said it was appealing against the latest California ruling.

The Farmers bid is easily BAT's most ambitious takeover foray. Victory would bring it a substantial share of the world's largest insurance market.

On current market forecasts, the new terms represent an exit price earnings multiple of about 16 times Farmers' expected earnings.

BAT shares responded well to the news, slipping just 3p to 421p in a weak market.



On top of his world: Tony Brend of Commercial Union in his London office yesterday

British profits help to boost CU and GA at half time

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Booming profits in Britain boosted the results of Commercial Union and General Accident, the first two composite insurers to report their interim figures.

CU turned in pretax profits for the six months to end-June of £111.4 million, up 36 per cent from £82.1 million last time. Domestic British business contributed the lion's share with a profit of £88 million, up from £62.1 million, helped by the mild winter weather, which reduced claims on property insurance. The interim dividend rises by 16 per cent from 16.25p to 17.25p.

The company said premium rates in Britain were still rising in many areas of business and predicted a slight increase in motor insurance rates in October. CU insisted, however, that it would not suffer from heavy claims related to the Piper Alpha oil rig disaster. It

said the risk had been re-insured widely around insurance markets, ensuring that CU itself would not be severely affected when claims started coming in.

Life assurance profits grew rapidly, rising 23 per cent to £17.5 million as premium income on some products rose by up to 187 per cent.

Mr Tony Brend, CU's chief executive, said underwriting

sharp improvement in underwriting performance in the second quarter.

Premium income in the US also rose although the underwriting loss was up slightly to £27.4 million.

The company is increasing the interim dividend from 12.5p to 15.5p.

GA said further underwriting progress, particularly on British business, would be difficult to achieve although the outlook for most areas of operation worldwide was good.

Both insurance companies benefited from relatively low claims experience, particularly from disasters and bad weather. The Piper Alpha disaster is estimated to produce claims of at least \$1.2 billion (£710 million) from insurance markets around the world, but most of the claims will fall on reinsurers. GA said its exposure was less than £500,000.

Shares fall on rates fears

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Stock markets took a lead from Tokyo yesterday after Tuesday's rise in US interest rates gave the Japanese stock market its worst day this year.

The Nikkei index dropped 615.49 points, or 2.18 per cent, on fears that the Japanese discount rate will have to rise from its low of 2.5 per cent to curb the dollar's recovery.

Shares opened weaker in London, despite the strength of sterling. In the afternoon, the share market became even weaker as the Dow Jones industrial average started slipping in New York.

By the close, the FT-SE had fallen by 22.7 points (1.2 per cent) to 1,639.9, with half the fall coming after lunch.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones lost 31.30 points to 2,047.83 by early afternoon.

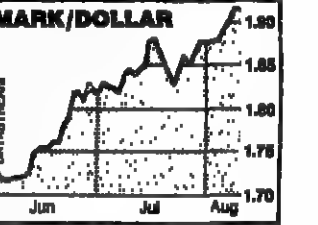
The dollar continued its three-month summer rise against the mark in the morning, knocking German bonds.

But it slipped back later in New York as dealers sold on fears that central banks would not allow the dollar to rise further. There was, however, no sign of large-scale intervention.

In London, the dollar ended at DM1.9180, slightly below Tuesday's New York close.

The pound remained firm against all currencies after Monday's unexpected base rate rise. Sterling gained nearly a penny to DM3.2414 and even added a quarter of a cent to \$1.6900.

But stock markets fear that currency markets could face a period of renewed instability before the American presidential election in November as economic management depends on the Federal Reserve Board's use of interest rates to



News Corp prepared to sell stake in Reuters

By Our City Staff

The News Corporation is prepared to sell its 6.8 per cent share stake in Reuters Holdings as part of the financing of its \$3 billion (£1.77 billion) purchase of Triangle Publications, but is intending to retain its 20.5 per cent interest in Pearson.

The Reuters sale will not take place, however, until the high voting "A" shares are converted into a single class of shares with the same voting rights as those currently enjoyed by the "B" shares.

Mr Rupert Murdoch, a Reuters director and chief executive of The News Corporation, has undertaken that The News Corporation's "A"

shares will be voted in favour of the proposal to convert the equity into a single class.

The "A" shares are not freely transferable. Any "A" shareholder wishing to sell has first to offer the shares to existing "A" shareholders and then to members of the Newspaper Publishers Association. The News Corporation owns 9.5 million "A" shares directly and has further interests through Australian Associated Press and New Zealand Press Association.

Other asset sales are also being contemplated to finance the Triangle acquisition, but the timescale for the sales can be extended because it will

take several months for the purchase of Triangle to be completed. This will enable the Reuters sale to form part of an orderly marketing with other shareholdings which may be sold.

The Reuters shareholding is likely to be worth some \$200 million (£118 million).

Among the other assets of The News Corporation which are likely to be put up for sale are areas of land in Australia and property in London. The company owns some potentially valuable Thames-side warehouses.

The News Corporation has substantial uncommitted credit lines available to it.

GKN cautious as interim hits £84m

By Alexandra Jackson

GKN, the motor components, defence and industrial services group, lifted profits from £67 million to £84 million in the half to end-June.

Mr David Lees, who took over from Sir Trevor Holdsworth as chairman in May, said he was "reasonably pleased" with the performance.

However, Mr Lees showed characteristic caution and gave a warning that the healthy level of activity being experienced by GKN might decline towards the end of the year although there were no signs of this as yet.

Sales rose from £961.2 million to £1.02 billion during the half-year. Interim dividend

risks to 6.25p from 5.5p. Shareholders may choose shares instead of dividends.

Adverse currency movements knocked about £90 million off turnover and reduced pre-tax profits by £3 million. A redundancy charge of £5 million was taken above the line, mostly from GKN's European businesses, compared with £4 million previously. There were extraordinary redundancy charges of a further £2.1 million (£1.4 million).

Domestic businesses performed most strongly, contributing 41 per cent of sales (37 per cent) and 37 per cent of profits (20 per cent).

Times, page 22

Panel may extend Irish Distillers bid

By Colin Campbell

The Takeover Panel is likely to extend GC&C Brands' controversial bid for Irish Distillers by two weeks to allow the parties to surmount a timetable forced on the bidders by the European Commission.

Under Panel rules, the Guinness-Allied Lyons-Grand Metropolitan consortium bid, made via GC&C Brands, lapses on August 26, and the bidder has until tomorrow to decide whether to raise its £131.5p offer.

However, the bidder - against whom the European Commission has issued an adverse ruling - is only able to argue its case in Brussels on August 24, by which time

tomorrow's deadline would have passed. This week, GC&C, with a low level of acceptances in hand, extended its £131.5p a share cash bid until August 19.

Irish Distillers was yesterday arguing its point of view before the Takeover Panel in London.

An extension would allow GC&C to re-consider its position and possibly take steps to overcome the objections of the European Commission.

These objections were, *inter alia*, that by joining hands in what Irish Distillers has called "an unholy alliance," the three bidders had ruled out the possibility of a competitive bid.

Group poised to fend off Mecca in Hard Rock battle

Supporters line up behind Pleasurama

By Cliff Feltman

Pleasurama, the casinos and holiday group, seemed on course for victory last night in its battle to take over the Hard Rock Cafe chain, despite fierce opposition from the Mecca entertainments group.

Mecca has launched a hostile £520 million takeover bid for the much larger Pleasurama, provided Pleasurama shareholders veto the Hard Rock acquisition and a rights issue at a special meeting tomorrow.

But last night there were firm indications that Pleasurama will gain the support it needs from shareholders - even though several leading institutions are backing Mecca's case that the deal needs closer examination. Mecca has said that, if it fails to win support at the meeting, its bid will lapse - although, significantly, it has reserved the right to waive that condition. Mr

Barry Hardy, a director of Pleasurama, said: "If we win on Friday, then Mecca should do the honourable thing and call this bid off. A vote in favour of the Hard Rock acquisition is a vote of confidence in the actions of the board and management of Pleasurama."

Both companies have been busy canvassing support from institutions throughout the last week. Pleasurama needs to obtain support from 75 per cent of votes cast at the meeting, and sources close to the company were last night confident that it was already holding sufficient proxies to rubber stamp the Hard Rock deal.

Institutions widely expected to have sided with Pleasurama include Scottish Amicable Life Assurance, which owns 4.8 per cent of the ordinary shares, and Robert Fleming, with a 4.5 per cent holding. SCW Investment Management, however, with 2.7 per cent and the

fourth largest shareholder - is understood to have supported the Mecca view.

Mecca has claimed that Pleasurama's plans to expand Hard Rock will result in an erosion of the unique appeal of the restaurant and the possible loss of the merchandising appeal, once the brand name becomes commonplace.

Mecca's contention that its own management has been more aggressive and successful since it was floated on the stock market has been attacked by Mecca. Last night, Mecca would not say how it would react to a Pleasurama victory at tomorrow's meeting. "We are in no position to say what we would do until we have digested the message coming back from shareholders."

But observers believe that Mecca is unlikely to throw in the towel at this stage, and would endeavour to unwind or renegotiate the Hard Rock acquisition if its takeover bid was successful.

RACAL ELECTRONICS PLC

A REMINDER TO SHAREHOLDERS FROM THE BOARD OF RACAL

VOTE FOR YOUR BOARD'S PROPOSALS TO FLOAT RACAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS GROUP

Send your proxy to Racal Electronics NOW.

Alternatively proxies may be delivered to:
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St. Swithin's Lane,
London EC4

To be valid, proxies must be received at Racal Electronics by 10am this Sunday.

Deliveries to

N. M. Rothschild & Sons Limited
should be made by 8pm this Saturday.

ACT NOW

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Staley broker sold by Tate & Lyle to Drexel

Tate & Lyle, the sugar refiner, has recouped another \$35 million (£20.6 million) of the \$1.48 billion it paid for Staley Continental, the US corn syrup group, with the sale of its commodities brokerage to Drexel Burnham Lambert, the Wall Street investment house.

Staley Commodities International has offices in Chicago, Illinois, and Kansas City, Missouri. The deal also marks the end of a multi-million dollar lawsuit which Staley brought against Drexel in 1985, after the investment house launched a highly-leveraged bid, said Staley. In addition, Staley has entered into a contract to run for at least two years for Drexel to carry out its agricultural hedging operations, previously conducted by the subsidiary being sold. The deal is the third disposal since Tate bought Staley earlier this summer. No further large Staley sell-offs are now expected.

Beales ahead 36% to £2m

John Beales, the clothing to refrigeration company, lifted pre-tax profits 36 per cent to £2.06 million in the six months to end-May, after a break-even performance from Southern & Redfern, its most recent acquisition. Beales bought the previously loss-making company, which has interests in refrigeration and electrical goods, for a maximum of £1.35 million. A final dividend of 4.65p made 6.3p for the year, from 5.5p.

TIP Europe tankers deal

TIP Europe, the trailer rental company, has bought Greenland Transport Equipment, a specialist tanker trailer rental and leasing company, for £960,000. Greenland currently operates a fleet of 72 road tanker trailers. TIP intends to increase Greenland's fleet to 100 by the end of the year. The consideration will be satisfied by a cash payment of £100,000 and the issue of loan notes for £860,000.

Grand Central buys

Grand Central Investment Holdings, the Far East food group, has added to its Australian network with the Aus\$2.67 million (£1.25 million) purchase of Dinnies Rundle, Western Australia's largest independent wholesaler of chocolate and confectionery, from Peters (Western Australia).

The buy will be funded from the proceeds of the \$4.27 million June rights issue. Of the consideration, Aus\$550,000 comprises the repayment of an inter-company loan. In the year to end-June 1987, profits before tax and charges were Aus\$255,000, with Aus\$440,000 expected this year.

Rink rejects £28m offer

Wolstenholme Rink, the printing materials group, has sent to shareholders its first formal rejection of the £28 million takeover bid by Cookson Group, the metals and chemicals concern, attacking it as "vague" and with "little commercial logic." But there is no profit forecast for the year to end-December. Wolstenholme's shares are currently more than 70p above the Cookson share offer.

IFG stake for Claythorne

Claythorne, the industrial holding company, has bought 35 per cent of IFG Securities, a management, investment and financial services group based in Dublin, for Ir£265,000 (£500,000). IFG has investments in many industrial and financial services companies. It will use the funds to expand in these areas. IFG also has 75 per cent of Diamond Windows.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings August 8
Last Dealings August 10
Last Declaration November 11
For Settlement November 21
Call options were taken out on 10/88 Power Chocum, United Biscuits, Seem, Noble & Lund, American International, Eozon, BP, Sovereign Oil & Gas, Eagle Trust, Chertsey, Pargabrook, Pire & Carter, Baldwin, Pargabrook.

CU and GA ready to beat the fall

The season for composite insurance company interims began yesterday with two sets of healthy results which were so much in line with market expectations that they caused barely a murmur. Yet they showed that both Commercial Union and General Accident are in relatively good shape to handle a fall in premium rates over the next year or two.

The strength of the British market for both companies was evident in several ways. GA, for example, even managed to make an underwriting profit on its personal motor insurance — no mean feat when the level of insurance claims tends to suggest that people are driving blindfold. With the relatively mild winter, property claims were also on the low side for both companies — again unusual when the rising claims experience in most years seems to imply the impending arrival of an ice-age accompanied by storms, droughts, floods and other insurance disasters.

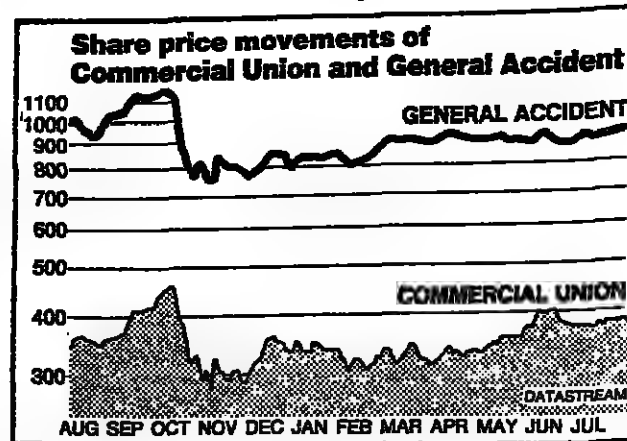
There is every reason to suppose that the British market will continue to produce good results at least until the end of this year, which bodes well for the full-year results of the composites. Anxious eyes are turning, however, to the US where premium rates on large commercial business are beginning to drop alarmingly. This has not affected the results of CU and GA at the half-way stage, nor is it likely

to in the second half to any great extent.

Both companies are, for the time being, insulated from the worst of the premium rate falls. CU is but mostly involved in small-scale commercial business in the US where rates have not yet started to fall. GA is more heavily into personal insurance where rates are still holding up well. At present, the softness in premium rates appears to be a patchy affair and some insurance men have persuaded themselves that it will not develop into a more generalized phenomenon.

Time will tell, but these results show that the two companies will be hit later than most if a fall does come. Gone are the days when CU presented a complete contrast to the more solid and steady GA. It is clear that CU's drive to become a steady performer has continued. For instance, the high proportion of life insurance profits in the group's results add a useful element of predictability.

It also more than covers the cost of the dividend payout, which is good news for CU shareholders. General insurance profits are not yet required to contribute to the dividend and the company is clearly determined to improve its payouts in real terms. GA's 24 per cent dividend increase was even more impressive. The full-year rise for both companies is likely to follow



the interim increase.

With such a good first half, neither company is likely to have a radically better second half. That leaves profit estimates roughly double the interim figures: £220 million for the year for CU and £320 million for GA, giving prospective p/e ratios of about 11.5 and 8.5 respectively.

GKN

GKN's interim results look good year on year but in reality the company has still not recovered the trading profit levels reported for the first half of 1986.

A lower interest charge and healthier performance from related companies have been the main factors which turned the 9 per cent shortfall at the trading level to a 13 per cent pre-tax advance.

The shape of the business has changed during the intervening months, and latest results show the growing importance of GKN's British-based businesses.

This swing was partly caused by more difficult conditions in Continental Europe and the United States but it was also due to the stronger performance from the industrial and defence activities.

The strategic decision to manage the three core businesses — automotive, defence and industrial services — as separate units is starting to pay off.

The autoparts business in the US is performing well below par with margins half what they should be.

Recent acquisitions are not having the desired effect, and further action is necessary. The automotive market

remains competitive in Europe and in the US. GKN has further to go to cut its costs, especially in Europe if margins are to be sustained.

In the US, there is a drive to increase volumes. Three new contracts should help this year. Another two are expected to be announced within a few weeks.

A lower tax charge, attributed to GKN's substantial past British tax losses, should contribute to the expected rise in earnings per share from 34.7p last year to 37.5p this year on a pre-tax profits forecast of £160 million. This puts the shares on a p/e of 8.7 times.

The yield — 6.5 per cent prospective — remains the principal attraction as the earnings progression — 8 per cent — is otherwise unremarkable.

Simon

Engineering

Simon Engineering was on notice that if it did not perform this year, it could expect to find a bidder at its door.

The message appears to have hit home and, under new management, Simon is able to show pre-tax profits of £11.74 million for the six months ended June, compared with £9.41 million before.

The last time Simon turned in such respectable half-time figures was for the six months ended June, 1986. The signal seems to be that its once dreary record has been left behind.

The 30 per cent improvement in the interim dividend not only reflects that there will be a better balance between individual payments and six-monthly results, but also that the time has come to reward shareholders.

Of the 40 per cent improvement in operating profit, an estimated 14 per cent was due to organic growth, with acquisition benefits bringing in the balance.

There is a "for sale" sign over the group's chemical merchandising arm, and certain of the food equipment businesses are also to be sold.

Financial goals include a further improvement in the return on capital employed — currently running around the 18.5 per cent level and set for at least 20 per cent within a reasonable time-frame — and a continued and meaningful increase in net earnings per share.

Pre-tax profits of at least £30.5 million (£23.5 million) are possible, rising to £36 million the following year. That makes Simon shares at 284p — up 2p and offering a 9.7 times rating — worth holding.

Shares fall as corruption inquiry widens its net

HK officials in 'share bribe' case

From Stephen Leather Hong Kong

Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption yesterday charged six past and present Stock Exchange officials — including Mr Charles Sin, the chairman — with accepting share bribes.

And the anti-corruption watchdogs revealed that they had filed further charges against Mr Ronald Li, the former chairman, and widened the net to include Cathay Pacific, the airline group, and Hysan Development, the property company, in their investigations.

The new defendants include Mr Sin and three exchange vice-chairmen — Mr Kenneth Wong, Mr Chan Siu-leun and Mr Joseph Ma.

The other two are Mr John Chong, a former vice-chairman, and Mr Edward Woo, a member of the exchange decision-making committee.

The six will appear in court today with Mr Li and Mr Jeffrey Sun, a former chief executive, who are on bail totalling more than HK\$12 million (£890,000).

Share prices fell sharply on the ICAC announcement. The



In court today: Ronald Li (left) and Charles Sin



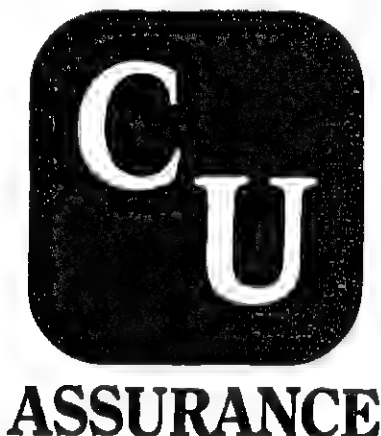
may Pacific share flotation. The ICAC also charged Mr Sun in connection with the flotation of Hysan Development.

Of the six charged yesterday, Mr Sin, Mr Wong, Mr Chan and Mr Chong were each accused of accepting bribes in connection with the flotation of Video Technology, QPL and Hysan. Mr Ma and Mr Woo face similar charges connected with QPL and Hysan.

A Hong Kong Exchange spokesman said yesterday: "The people concerned have no part in the current management of the exchange, and the operation of the exchange will continue as normal."

Mr David Gledhill, the chairman of Cathay Pacific, said yesterday: "We cannot of course comment on the charges. We can state, however, that neither Cathay Pacific nor the Swire Group, nor any of their management, were aware until the ICAC investigation that there was any suggestion that Ronald Li had allegedly obtained an advantage out of the flotation of Cathay Pacific."

Market report, page 24



ASSURANCE

SIX MONTHS' REVIEW

Pre-tax profit increased to £111.4m

★ Operating profit before taxation increased by 36% to £111.4m (1987 £82.1m).

★ Strong growth in life and savings new business.

★ Interim dividend raised by 16% to 7.25p.

★ Excellent performance in the United Kingdom and improved profits from most other territories.

★ Shareholders' funds £1,300m.

SIX MONTHS' HIGHLIGHTS

	6 months 1988 Unaudited	6 months 1987 Unaudited	
Total premium income	£1,646.3m	£1,548.9m	+6%
Operating profit before taxation	£111.4m	£82.1m	+36%
Operating profit after taxation	£65.4m	£51.0m	+28%
Earnings per share	15.6p	12.3p	+27%
Interim dividend per share	7.25p	6.25p	+16%

The interim dividend of 7.25p per share will be paid on 17 November 1988 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 25 August 1988 and will cost £30.5m (1987 £26.1m).

The Directors have agreed that shareholders be given the choice of receiving fully paid ordinary shares instead of a cash dividend and full details of the terms of the offer will be sent to shareholders with the interim report on 13 September 1988. Members of the public may obtain copies of the report thereafter from the registered office of the Company at St. Helen's, 1 Undershaft, London, EC3P 3DQ or by telephoning the Shareholder Relations Service on 01-283 7500, extension 8866.



Commercial Union Assurance Company plc

Wholesale Fittings to expand after £7m year

By Rosemary Unsworth

Wholesale Fittings, the electrical distributor, has boosted full-year, pre-tax profits by 25 per cent to £7 million — slightly more than was expected.

Turnover rose by 21 per cent from £42.9 million to £52.1 million in the year to April 29. The final dividend of 10.2p makes a total of 12.89p, compared with 10.08p last time.

The group, which was based mainly in London and the South-east, has expanded with the opening of depots in Bristol, Leicester, Peterborough and Wellingborough. A fifth is soon to open in Fulham, London. Five more are set to open this year.



The Royal Bank of Scotland plc Mortgage Rate

The Royal Bank of Scotland announces that with effect from 12 August 1988 its House Mortgage Rate will be increased from 11.25% to 11.6% per annum.

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. Registered Office: 30 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YY. Incorporated in Scotland 1921.

COMPANY BRIEFS

IND NEWSPAPERS (Int) Ir Turnover Ir£85.42 (£43.09)m. Pre-tax: £5.02 (£3.77)m. EPS: 17.0 (12.7)p. Div: 5 (4.5)p.

FLOGAS (fin) Ir Pre-tax: £3.93 (£4.24)m. EPS: 17.93 (19.62)p. Div: 3.746 mkg 5.846p.

PROP SECURITY IT (fin) Pre-tax: £5.83 (£5.61)m. EPS: 5.34 (4.52)p. Div: 2 (1.4) mkg 3.25p.

Turnover Ir£22.21 (£19.70)m. Final dividend 1987 (5.313)p. Profit transferred to reserves Ir£2.36 (£2.69)m.

Net asset value 185 (158)p. Buoyancy of the market gives the company an opportunity to review their investments.

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Global strength sees BOC beat forecasts with £220m

By Cliff Feltham

BOC Group, the global industrial gases to health care group run by Mr Richard Giordano, yesterday reported a 16 per cent improvement in pre-tax profits for the nine months to end-June.

The group unveiled total profits of £220.8 million — up from £190.1 million at the same stage last year — which was about £5 million more than most analysts' expectations. But currency worries continue to cloud prospects and the shares eased 4p to 413p.

"This is a good result,

reflecting a strong performance in virtually all our businesses worldwide," said Mr Giordano. Turnover for the period rose from £1.4 billion to £1.5 billion, with earnings per share up 15 per cent at 30.93p.

Since the end of the trading period, BOC has completed a series of disposals. These have included the sale of its US carbon and carbide businesses, a small US dental and veterinary business, and the minority stake in Zambia Oxygen.

BOC said that these dis-

posals had created extraordinary losses of £10 million, while there was an extraordinary tax charge of £8.5 million in respect of the carbon business.

The expected proceeds of these disposals are included on the balance sheet as investments. Some £107 million has been received since the end of the nine months and will be used to reduce group debt.

During the trading spell, BOC's Asian Pacific region turned in the star performance, boosting profits at the operating level from £44.7

million to just over £53 million.

There was also a strong showing in Europe which lifted earnings from £65.5 million to £78 million.

The Americas improved from £78.7 million to £91.1 million, while Africa showed a more modest rise — from £23.3 million to £26.4 million.

BOC stands to receive a windfall of around £42 million after the sale or liquidation of five subsidiaries of Commonwealth Industrial Gases, the Australian group in which it holds 87 per cent.

NatWest new look 'to meet change'

By Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

National Westminster Bank yesterday announced a substantial reorganization of the group's divisional structure to cope with growing competition and change in banking markets.

It is the first big restructuring since the group was formed by the merger of three banks in 1969.

Four main divisions are being created to combine product development and marketing in each area instead of splitting them between different departments. Mr Charles Green, group deputy chairman, said: "It is a response to a new view of the market place and to greater competition. The focus of the old system had gone a bit wrong and was beginning to create confusion."

The two most important changes in the new structure are the UK financial services division, to be headed by Mr Roger Flemington, and the corporate and institutional banking division, headed by Mr John Melbourn.

All domestic services for personal, small business and medium-sized company customers will be brought into the British division, including non-banking services such as insurance, investment and advice. The aim is to co-ordinate more strongly the marketing of all kinds of products through the branch network.

The largest British and overseas customers will, however, be handled by the corporate and institutional division which will also include the group's treasury operations. The debt and capital markets operations of National Westminster Investment Bank will also be brought into the division.

The international department will handle NatWest's overseas retail banking in the US and Europe as well as private banking and offshore banking. A support service group will handle information technology.

Three smaller divisions — financial control, strategy and communications and personnel — are unchanged.

Most of the big clearing banks have restructured their operations in the past two years to focus on specific areas of the market. NatWest believes that its own reorganization, due to come into effect at the start of the next year, will also cut management costs.

COMMENT David Brewerton

An exceedingly good defence from RHM

Ranks Hovis McDougall has to be ready to switch the emphasis of its defence from attacking the highly-gearred nature of the Goodman Fielder bid to demonstrating its own considerable worth. At the very least, the defence document, likely soon, will have to contain a profits estimate for the financial year about to end, with the promise of another increase in dividend.

And at the very least, the profits forecast will have to be close to the mid point in the brokers' range of £150 million to £160 million, while there will be some long faces if the dividend increase is less than 20 per cent. An increase of 25 per cent would be greeted with enthusiasm.

But even those will not be enough. Before the dreaded "twenty-first day" when the buying shackles are cut off, RHM will need to feel able to produce a forecast for the coming year. After all, the management budgets are all prepared.

On another front, lobbyists have been working overtime to persuade anyone who will listen that the bid should be referred to the Monopolies Commission. The strategy, devised by RHM, is one of high risk, for it is precisely such a chain of events which eventually delivered Rowntree into the hands of Nestlé.

The worst enemy of any share price, let alone the shares of a company in the midst of a takeover bid, is uncertainty, and nothing creates uncertainty like the deliberations of Sir Gordon Borrie and his colleagues at the Office of Fair Trading. If there is a hint that he may recommend referral of the bid, the RHM price is likely to wilt. And if it wilts, then Goodman Fielder Wattle can move into the market and grab control.

RHM will have to be careful not to fall into the self-same trap. The OFT, of course, took too long thinking about Rowntree, and it is to be hoped that somebody has impressed on the Borrie-men that they need to clear the air before Goodman Fielder is freed to start buying more RHM shares in the market. This is in just over two weeks' time.

The point that RHM must get across is that the Goodman Fielder bid is not generous, and that if it fails, whether from shareholders' loyalty to RHM, or because of the intervention of the OFT, the share price is underpinned by Goodman's continuing interest.

BAT's bold move

Mr Patrick Sheehy, the BAT chairman, has so far handled the pursuit of Farmers Inc with kid gloves. And well he might. Farmers would become the jewel in the group's financial services division and add a growing, high-quality income stream to

the group. BAT needs to make sure that the key players stay on the team, so it was a bold move to carry the battle into the Farmers boardroom with a force play of some originality.

Mr Sheehy's 10-day offer of \$72 a share catches Farmers directors in some formidable cross-fire. They are now stranded between their legal obligation to act in the best interests of stockholders, and current threats of legal actions from disgruntled investors who clearly find BAT's earlier \$63 dollar a share offer attractive, let alone the latest top-up. It is most unlikely that they will resist for much longer the forces pushing them towards the negotiating table. To do otherwise would risk a rash of suits for breach of fiduciary duty.

The start of serious talks would be a two-fold coup for BAT. First because Farmers had given no indication that it was willing to move in this direction until the tortuous US legal processes in nine states had reached a conclusion, and second because there is now every hope that time and expense involved in the Farmers bid will be much truncated.

The outlook for BAT is now set fair. During the heavy trading of Farmers stock so far this year, the arbitrageurs have become a key factor. They may now account for 25 to 35 per cent of Farmers stock, according to Wall Street guesstimates. By definition the arbitrageurs are looking to accept the higher offer at the earliest opportunity. BAT has its quarry in sight and if yesterday's deft move is any guide, is unlikely to falter now.

Racal's right to manage

Racal shareholders have until Sunday to deliver proxies in the battle over the proposed £2 billion flotation of Vodafone. They have three main issues to consider. First, the seductive but theoretical assertion of Millicom, the US electronics group, that shareholders would suffer a double discount if the Racal plans for a 20 per cent sale of stock in Vodafone is passed.

On the second issue, synergy, Racal is adamant that both Vodafone and the rest of its businesses need to stay together to derive maximum benefits from the convergence of technologies in all the core operations. The synergies resulting from a pooling of financial and technological resources would be damaged, says Racal, if Millicom's idea of a Vodafone demerger is pursued.

The third and most crucial issue, though, is one of backing a successful board over the crucial issue of its right to manage. On the latter point, Millicom has failed to make a strong enough case for rejecting Racal's proposals. Shareholders should back their board.

Needwood building up to float

By Martin Waller

Mr Peter Aldridge, well known in the building materials industry and twice head of Thermalite, the maker of building blocks, is seeking a market flotation within three years for his new vehicle, Needwood.

The group has just completed the £34 million purchase of the builders' merchants division of Whitcroft, with assistance from James Capel's new development capital division.

The deal brought several new shareholders on board, including Tarmac, the building materials group, with about 5 per cent, and several of the institutions which backed the 1983 management buyout at Thermalite.

The management is taking 16 per cent, which can increase to a maximum of 40 per cent depending on future profits by the flotation date in 1991. Mr Aldridge said yesterday that he saw 30 per cent as a more achievable target, and even this would need a gruelling profits increase.

The Whitcroft division included 26 outlets in North Wales, the Midlands, the North and South-east. To build a proper national network Needwood needs another 50 and ideally a total of 150 to cover the entire country. About half this growth would come organically, by adding greenfield sites, and the rest by acquisition, said Mr Aldridge.



Industry ripe for consolidation: Gordon Currie, marketing director (left), Peter Aldridge (centre) and Alan Gardner, financial director of Needwood

merchants market is highly fragmented, with only half the 2,500 to 3,000 outlets held by the 10 biggest companies, estimate James Capel's building analysts. The industry is therefore ripe for the kind of consolidation seen among

housebuilders over the past 10 years.

The equity financing deal provides the facility for about £21 million for further expansion and recourse to shareholders such as 3i, the Prudential and Lloyds Bank for funds.

Goldsmith doubles profits

By Our City Staff

General Oriental Investments, the main holding company of Sir James Goldsmith, increased its gross profits from \$136 million (£80 million) to \$236.3 million in the year to end-March.

Net profits of \$210.3 million were slightly more than double last year's figure, with earnings per share reaching \$1.92, compared with 97 cents.

However, the company is paying a dividend of 50 cents, half last year's level.

In a year which incorporated the stock market crash, the company managed to make net gains of \$167.8 million on transactions in investments, compared with \$108.2 million the previous year.

Profits were also increased by the company's timberlands and related operations. Net trading results of these businesses were \$42.2 million, compared with \$8.2 million.

Ultramar defies oil slip to strike £40m

By Colin Campbell

Ultramar, the geographically widespread oil group in which Sir Ron Brierley holds a 13.5 per cent stake, believes it has ridden out a period of low world oil prices in reasonable form to raise interim dividend from 2.3p to 2.5p a share.

Mr John Darby, who assumed the office of chairman on July 1, reports an interim profit from continuing operations of £24.7 million compared with £21.6 million, on sales marginally higher at £566.6 million (£565.2 million).

Thanks to an exceptional £17.4 million profit arising because of the changed structure of the group's Canadian pension plan, Ultramar shows a pre-tax profit of £40.1 million for the six months ended June 30 compared with £28.1 million, and net earnings of 14.4p (10.2p) a share.

The group's average oil price received was slightly lower at \$15.30 (£9) a barrel in

the first half of 1988, but higher margins were achieved on its Eastern Canada operations. Benefits have now started to flow from the earlier restructuring of the United States West Coast marketing company where 15 service stations have been added to the chain.

Mr Darby says the appraisal drilling programme in the North Sea should confirm the prospects for substantially increased North Sea production in the 1990s. However, there has been a reduced contribution from Indonesian exploration and production activities following the dispute since March 31 between Japanese buyers and Pertamina.

Mr Darby said he found it difficult to forecast world oil prices, though he remained confident of their trend for the 1990s. Ultramar spent about £25 million on exploration in the first half of this year.

The shares fell 2p to 288p.

FKI may float off division

By Our City Staff

FKI Babcock, the electricals and engineering group, is considering floating off its British electrical products division on the Unlisted Securities Market.

But an FKI spokesman emphasized yesterday that no definite plans had yet been made.

FKI was waiting to see how shareholders voted on the proposed flotation of Racal's Vodafone division before deciding whether it should, in turn, float off part of its business as a separate entity.

Any flotation would be scheduled for next year and would probably involve FKI releasing only 10 per cent of the new vehicle's equity.

FKI is considering the flotation because it believes the business is undervalued, and also to provide incentives to the management.

FKI Babcock was formed last year when FKI took over the larger Babcock International business.

Lawyers, letters and a brolly...

The lead item in *The Times City Diary* on Friday of last week, about the five-strong merger and acquisitions team leaving Hoare Govett, the broker, for Swiss Bank Corporation seems to have gone down little better than the original letters of resignation. I can now reveal that Peter Large, the M&A team leader, and his colleagues hotly dispute suggestions that they were "grilled" about missing Hoare documents or "embarrassed" about anything else in the wake of their departure. Following a post-resignation meeting at which a Hoare lawyer was present and an exchange of correspondence, I hear that Large has now put Hoare's response to the resignations in the hands of his own lawyers. Conscious that this could become a lawyers' banqueting, I trust that both sides will reach an amicable and civilized solution before costs escalate. And Large, who departed for a summer holiday in Cornwall at the weekend, has indeed, not lost his sense of humour. His latest thoughts relate to his golfing umbrella — which is, I hear, still in Hoare's safe custody — in case the weather on the links breaks.

Is textile group Dawson a refuge for child labour victims? According to a release Bill Simpson has just become director of human resources. But he is only 39, and spent 10 years with the Industrial Society after 15 in industry, he must have started out at 14.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Kleinwort's handicap

The office outing season is in full swing but one senior salesman at Kleinwort Greaves had to watch his liquid intake last week when he and seven colleagues went to play golf against management at their client, Merrydown Wine. The nine-hole course at Horan, East Sussex, was home course for Merrydown so they took the trophy. But they rewarded the Kleinwort

player of the day, industrial analyst Paul Burke, with three bottles of champagne and a bottle of Israeli Alshejah orange liqueur. Just as well the bottles are still intact as a Kleinwort player was before the quick the following morning for a Bupa medical. He was given a clean bill of health and told that he was in no danger of needing to cut down on the booze.

Family ties at Hermes

Whether you are about to lose your job or not, a Hermes tie is nowadays *de rigueur* for the young Turks of the Square Mile. Sales of the ties — which retail at upwards of £44 each —

rose by 20 per cent in the 12 months to July. And sales of other Hermes status wares similarly give no clue to the recent stock market crash. Indeed, so encouraging is the climate, that Hermes — still resolutely family-controlled — is now poised for a large expansion in Britain. With outlets so far in Bond Street and Royal Exchange — where the City does its shopping — it will open another in Sloane Street in November and has plans for Edinburgh, Manchester and Bath. It hopes to have 240 outlets world-wide by the year-end, so can a float be far away? "The family were obviously tempted to consider it at one time," says Caroline Butti, general manager and company secretary of Hermes (GB), "but decided they preferred to remain, as they say, *maitre chez soi*."



"I said I can't imagine you buying water shares."

Carol Leonard

GPT rings up £120m China deal

By John Spicer

GEC-Plessey Telecommunications (GPT) has won a £120 million order from the Chinese government for the manufacture, sale and distribution of the company's digital business communications system after four years of talks.

The 15-year agreement involves ISDX — integrated services digital exchange — and includes the phased transfer of technology from Britain to Shanghai, where production will provide 100,000 telephone lines a year.

Mr John Hooley, GPT's external communications executive, said the company's current production of ISDX was 300,000 lines a year. The Chinese order means that this will increase by one-third.

Less than one person in 100 in China had a telephone, compared with 50 per hundred in the UK and 80 per hundred in the US.

The deal creates a new company called the Shanghai Digital Telephone Equipment Company. The agreement was signed by GPT, the China International Trust and Investment Corporation, the Shanghai Telephone Equipment Factory and Linyu Development of Singapore.

Mr Richard Reynolds, managing director of GPT, said the venture increased the company's presence in China, which includes System X and transmission equipment.



Ultramar

1988 - THE FIRST HALF

HIGHLIGHTS	First Six Months		Change
	1988	1987	
SALES REVENUE	£566.6	£565.2	
CASH FLOW FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS	74.2	71.1	+ 4%
PROFIT FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS	24.7	21.6	+ 14%
NET PROFIT BEFORE EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS	40.1	28.1	+ 43%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	14.4p	10.2p	+ 41%
INTERIM DIVIDEND (NET) PER SHARE	2.5p	2.3p	+ 9%

OUTLOOK

"The strength of the Group during this period of oil price weakness lies in our balance between upstream and downstream assets."

"The expansion of the Indonesian LNG plant at Bontang and the further sophistication of our Quebec refinery are scheduled to be completed within the next two years. Our appraisal drilling programme in the North Sea should confirm the prospects for substantially increased North Sea production in the 1990's."

"We look to these developments to be the basis of continued growth in our operations."

John Darby
Chairman



ULTRAMAR PLC, 141 MOORGATE, LONDON EC2M 6TA

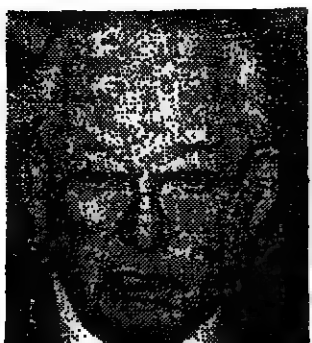
US accuses EEC of blocking progress on trade talks

From Bailey Morris Washington

Mr Richard Lyng, the US Agriculture Secretary, has accused the European Economic Community of blocking progress on global trade liberalization talks by clinging to agricultural subsidies which were unacceptably high and destabilizing to world markets.

Mr Lyng's comments marked a change in the Reagan Administration's tone, which had been conciliatory in the hope of achieving progress at an important mid-term review of the negotiations in December.

"I do not think the US



Richard Lyng: on the attack

drought is the reason the Uruguay Round of world trade talks is being held up. I think it is the inability of the EEC to make any kind of

fundamental change in its common agricultural policy of high intervention prices and high export subsidization," Mr Lyng said.

The US had proposed to negotiate a reduction to zero in agricultural subsidies by the year 2000 as part of the Gatt talks. But EEC officials have said this is an impossible goal even though they have authorized internal reductions in subsidies.

Mr Lyng also said that US farm subsidies, which had totalled almost \$30 billion (£18 billion) annually, were now very modest in response to the drought, the worst since the 1930s, and other factors.

Big buyer soaks up shares in Scottish & Newcastle group



It looks as though Mr John Elliott, the Australian brewer, is continuing to top up his holding in beleaguered Scottish & Newcastle, the brewery and distillery group.

Sharp-eyed brokers spotted several large lines of stock passing through the market yesterday at about the 330p level. Word is the shares were snapped up by County Nat-West WoodMac, acting on behalf of Mr Elliott's Elders DXL - famous for its Foster's Lager - which owns the Courage brewery chain.

The first line of 750,000 went through the market at the start of trading and was followed by another parcel of 500,000 shares. The Scottish & Newcastle share price ended

at 240p. The FT-SE 100 closed 22.7 down at 1,839.9 having been just 3.5 easier at one stage. The narrower FT Index of 30 shares lost 19.0 to finish at 1,482.1.

Government securities spent another drab session with losses at the longer end stretching to 1%.

There were signs that Mr Mohamed Al-Fayed is continuing to add to his 10.3 per cent holding in Sears. A line of 2 million shares was spotted on the ticker followed by two separate lines of a million shares. A total of 12 million were traded as the price firmed 1p to 136p.

Leading shares remained lacklustre, drifting lower on persistent small offerings. Glaxo lost another 11p at 953p. Bass 14p at 771p. P&O 13p at 578p. Reed International 10p to 436p while ICI was unchanged at £10.25p.

There were some hefty turn-over reported in Polly Peck, the international trading group headed by Mr Asil Nadir, whose interests stretch from fruit packing to electronics and pharmaceuticals.

A line of 2 million shares was offered at the 31p level in early trading. Later two separate parcels of 1 million and 500,000 shares were recorded

at the 315p level. The Polly Peck share price ended the day 6p lower at 314.4p.

One of the few bright features was Wayne Kerr, the USM-quoted electronics components group, which spurred 28p to 98p during after hours. The Bognor Regis group says it has received a possible bid approach and urges shareholders to sit tight.

But fading bid hopes continued to take their toll of BSR International, the Hong Kong-based consumer electronics group, which fell 5p to 86.5p. Last month the group announced it had received a bid approach but since then the silence has been deafening.

Pleasurama slipped 7p to 258p ahead of tomorrow's extraordinary meeting to approve the proposed acquisition of Hard Rock Cafe. But Pleasurama is currently fighting off an unwanted £221 million bid from Mecca and faces the prospect of a counter-bid from the likes of Bass or Rank Organisation if the Hard Rock acquisition is thrown out by shareholders. Dealers claim that Pleasurama's institutional investors are split over the move.

Speculation that Mr Rupert Murdoch's company, The News Corporation, which owns News International, publisher of The Times, may dispose of some of its publicly quoted investments in order to finance the \$3 billion acquisition of Triangle Publications took its toll. Pearson, where The News Corporation owns a 20 per cent stake, fell 12p to 765p. Reuters, the international news agency where The News Corporation owns a substantial stake, also lost 14p to 476p.

Michael Clark

General Accident

INTERIM RESULTS

The results for the six months ended 30th June 1988, estimated and unaudited, are compared below with those for the similar period in 1987, which are restated at 31st December 1987 rates of exchange; also shown are the actual results for the full year 1987.

It must be emphasised that the results for an interim period do not usually provide a reliable indication of those for the full year.

	6 Months to 30.6.88 Estimate £ millions	6 Months to 30.6.87 Estimate £ millions	1987 Actual £ millions
Premium Income	1,258.0	1,074.5	2,169.5
General Business	124.8	106.6	213.6
Long Term Business	1,133.2	1,181.1	2,383.1
Investment Income (see note)	172.2	140.5	299.1
Underwriting -			
General Business Result	(24.0)	(52.4)	(98.3)
Long Term Business Profits	7.0	6.5	11.5
Less Interest on Loans	155.2	94.6	212.3
UK Employee Profit Sharing Scheme	2.7	1.6	3.8
Profit before Taxation	152.5	93.0	204.4
Taxation - UK and Overseas	41.2	21.0	40.8
Profit after Taxation	111.3	72.0	163.6
Minority Interests and Preference Dividends	2.1	1.7	2.4
Net Profit attributable to Shareholders	109.2	70.3	161.2
Earnings per Ordinary Share	57.1p	37.9p	86.2p
Principal exchange rates used in translating overseas results			
U.S.A.	\$1.71	\$1.88	\$1.88
Canada	\$2.08	\$2.44	\$2.44

Note Investment income excludes £5.6m (1987 £4.9m) representing amortisation of U.S. deep discount bonds which under the U.S.A. accounting conventions would be credited to earnings.

	6 months to 30.6.88		6 months to 30.6.87	
	Premium Income	Underwriting Result	Premium Income	Underwriting Result
U.K.	456.4	9.6	397.3	(19.9)
U.S.A.	438.4	(26.6)	353.0	(27.4)
EEC other than U.K.	78.3	(5.3)	79.2	(6.8)
Canada	154.3	1.3	124.8	4.7
Other Overseas	82.0	8.4	65.2	(2.1)
London Market Business incl. internal reinsurance	48.6	(3.4)	55.0	(0.9)
	1,258.0	(24.0)	1,074.5	(52.4)

Net written premiums and investment income increased in sterling terms by 17.1% and 22.6% respectively. Adjusted to exclude the effects of currency fluctuations, the increases were 11.0% and 14.3% respectively.

In the second quarter there was a worldwide underwriting loss of £1.3m (1987 £1.4m loss) with an underwriting profit in the United Kingdom of £11.6m (1987 £11.0m profit) and a loss of £11.2m (1987 £10.5m loss) in the United States. Elsewhere there were aggregate underwriting losses of £1.7m (1987 £1.9m loss). The pre-tax profit for the quarter amounted to £90.7m (1987 £76.0m).

For the six months in the United Kingdom there was an underwriting profit of £9.6m (1987 £19.9m loss). A marginal profit in the Motor account for the quarter reduced the half year deficit to £1.8m (1987 £9.8m loss). The improvement seen in the first quarter result was maintained in the Homeowners and Commercial Property accounts which reported profits at the six months of £8.4m and £12.8m respectively (1987 £1.0m loss and £2.4m profit respectively). Experience in the Liabilities account, where there was some reserve strengthening, remained adverse during the half year.

For the six months net written premiums in the United States totalled \$749.7m (1987 \$663.7m) with an operating ratio of 105.45% as compared with 107.26% for the same period in 1987. On the United Kingdom accounting basis the underwriting loss was £26.6m (1987 £27.4m loss). Commercial lines are still showing improvement at this stage.

Elsewhere there were aggregate underwriting losses of £7.0m (1987 £5.1m loss). Most overseas territories reported satisfactory results although Belgium and Netherlands give concern. Reserve strengthening was a feature of the London market results for the quarter.

New annual premiums for life business in the United Kingdom for the first six months of 1988 were £22.6m (1987 £16.9m), and single premiums £16.0m (1987 £18.4m).

Dividend
The Directors have declared an interim dividend for the year ending 31st December 1988 of 15.5p per share (1987 12.5p per share) costing £32.5m (1987 £23.6m) payable on or after 1st January 1989 to ordinary shareholders on the Register of Members on 28th October 1988.

The Directors propose to offer ordinary shareholders the opportunity to receive fully paid ordinary shares in the Corporation in lieu of some or all of the cash dividend.

General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation plc.
World Headquarters: Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	152	Palmerston Ridge	240
Acad (135p)	125-2	Rockford	128-1
BMS (114p)	183-1	Saunders & Sons (130p)	195
Broadland Land (155p)	168-1	Schroder (125p)	128-2
Buckland Aust (110p)	123	SCHROD	118-1
Bulfinch (155p)	168-1	Silverdale-R (80p)	14-1
Calwell Int	168-2	Sonic Tape (15p)	14-1
Chiswick (145p)	145-1	Tans (100p)	14-1
Coastal (125p)	145-1	Thomson (125p)	132
Conroy (150p)	85-3	RIGHTS ISSUES	
Conroy Pet	81-1	Burningham N/P	9-2
Dukemaster	130-1	Cambridge N/P	11-1
Eng O'Sess Prop (155p)	130-1	City Gate N/P	205-2
Erosin Group (155p)	106	Dunham (100p)	14
European Colour	29-1	Energy Cap N/P	1-2
Heritage (85p)	185-1	Goodman N/P	4-1
Herring (150p)	185-1	MAC N/P	1-1
Hiwara (60p)	81	Marine A' N/P	1-1
Jackson Group	112	Owners Abroad N/P	24-4
Lincoln Group (115p)	147-3	Sandis (W) N/P	15
Nat Ind	147-3		
Optim (50p)	68-2		

(Issue price in brackets).

WORLD MARKETS ROUNDUP

Nikkei drops 615 in year's worst fall

Tokyo (Reuter) - Share prices took a nosedive in the year's biggest fall on fears of higher interest rates after Tuesday's rise in the United States discount rate, brokers said.

"It took New York by surprise and it certainly took people here by surprise," Mr Paul Migliorato, a broker with Jardine Fleming Securities, said. "Currency is the biggest worry. If the yen weakens further, there is fear that Japan will raise interest rates."

The Nikkei index plunged 615.49 points, or 2.18 per cent, to 27,554.87. This surpasses the previous record 1988 drop of 513.09 points on July 19.

Volume was a moderate 700 million shares against 650 million on Tuesday. Falls led rises 6.9 to one. Mining shares were the only ones to advance.

The market fell all day on news that the Federal Reserve had raised its discount rate to 6% per cent from 5% per cent. Investors expected the key rate to be left unchanged

before the US presidential election, brokers said.

Investors are waiting for the scheduled release of US June trade data, next Tuesday, for further hints as to the direction of the yen-dollar rate, brokers said. If the trade deficit is lower than expected, this could send the dollar higher.

Japan has managed to keep its discount rate at a record low of 2.5 per cent.

Higher interest rates can cause an exodus from stocks to fixed interest instruments.

Talk of a boost in the Japanese discount rate filtered into the afternoon market.

Investors were further unsettled by the Bank of Japan's moves to allow increases in one- and two-month commercial bill rates, especially as yen bonds plunged on the news.

But others were reassured by statements by government officials that they see no need to change Japan's overall monetary policies.

A few speculative issues were picked up. Investors

bought up some high technology exporters in the morning as these are seen as benefiting more from a weaker yen.

Some inflows of new investment trust money from leading securities houses also spurred buying, brokers said.

But many of these shed their early gains to close lower.

The first section index plunged 47.49 points to 2,172.50. The second section index fell 24.28 points to 2,929.70 in turnover of 5.05 million shares.

HONG KONG

Late buys cut impact of arrests

(Reuter) - Stock prices closed weaker following news of the arrest of six Hong Kong stock exchange officials but many shares ended above their lows on small investor bargain-hunting.

The Hang Seng index fell 54.66 points, or 2 per cent, to 2,579.38 while the broader-based Hong Kong index dropped 38.39 points to 1,702.65. Turnover firmed to HK\$40.93 million (£63.7 million) from HK\$37.17 million on Tuesday.

"The arrests were not unexpected," an analyst with a British broker said. "But it was still a shock to the market when the authorities really took the move."

Cathay Pacific stock ended unchanged at HK\$8.70 after dipping to HK\$8.55.

Swire topped the active list to end HK\$30 cents lower at HK\$18.40.

"Investors were taking the news (of the arrests) as an excuse for profit-taking after the stock's recent rally," a local broker said.

Cheung Kong fell HK15 cents to HK\$7.40 and Hongkong Bank fell HK5 cents to HK\$6.20.

Sydney - The Australian stock market suffered its largest fall in almost two weeks in nervous trading triggered by falls on foreign markets due to fears of higher interest rates.

Brokers said the local market struggled for most of the day, closing on its lows as Tokyo's Nikkei index slumped in late trading.

By the close of trading, the All Ordinaries index was down 24.3 points at 1633.0, ending a four-day rise.

Frankfurt - Share prices closed sharply lower, falling almost 2 per cent on speculation that Tuesday's unexpected half-point rise in the US discount rate would also push up West German rates.

The real-time DAX 30-share index closed 23.34 points or 1.9 per cent lower at 1,173.45.

Blue-chips led the whole market down.

The 60-share Commerzbank index, calculated at the mid-session fix, fell 22.4 points or 1.5 per cent to 1479.5.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Strike	Call	Put	Strike	Call	Put
100	48	88	110	11	30
110	30	68	120	5	20
120	15	48	130	2	10
130	8	28	140	1	5
140	4	18	150	0	2
150	2	10	160	0	1
160	1	5	170	0	0
170	0	2	180	0	0
180	0	1	190	0	0
190	0	0	200	0	0
200	0	0	210	0	0
210	0	0	220	0	0
220	0	0	230	0	0
230	0	0	240	0	0
240	0	0	250	0	0
250	0	0	260	0	0
260	0	0	270	0	0
270	0	0	280	0	0
280	0	0	290	0	0
290	0	0	300	0	0
300	0	0	310	0	0
310	0	0	320	0	0
320	0	0	330	0	0
330	0	0	340	0	0
340	0	0	350	0	0
350	0	0	360	0	0
360	0	0	370	0	0
370	0	0	380	0	0
380	0	0	390	0	0
390	0	0	400	0	0
400	0	0	410	0	0
410	0	0	420	0	0
420	0	0	430	0	0
430	0	0	440	0	0
440	0	0	450	0	0
450	0	0	460	0	0
460	0	0	470	0	0
470	0	0	480	0	0
480	0	0	490	0	0
490	0	0	500	0	0
500	0	0	510	0	0
510	0	0	520	0	0
520	0	0	530	0	0
530	0	0	540	0	0
540	0	0	550	0	0
550	0	0	560	0	0
560	0	0	570	0	0
570	0	0	580	0	0
580	0	0	590	0	0
590	0	0	600	0	0
600	0	0	610	0	0
610	0	0	620	0	0
620	0	0	630	0	0
630	0	0	640	0	0
640	0	0	650	0	0
650	0	0	660	0	0
660	0	0	670	0	0
670	0	0	680	0	0
680	0	0	690	0	0
690	0	0	700	0	0
700	0	0	710	0	0
710	0	0	720	0	0
720	0	0	730	0	0
730	0	0	740	0	0
740	0	0	750	0	0
750	0	0	760	0	0
760	0	0	770	0	0
770	0	0	780	0	0
780	0	0	790	0	0
790	0	0	800	0	0
800	0	0	810	0	0
810	0	0	820	0	0
820	0	0	830	0	0
830	0	0	840	0	0
840	0	0	850	0	0
850	0	0	860	0	0
860	0	0	870	0	0
870	0	0	880	0	0
880	0	0	890	0	0
890	0	0	900	0	0
900	0	0	910	0	0
910	0	0	920	0	0
920	0	0	930	0	0

Portfolio

PLUS NEW
Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If you own more than a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Heywood Williams	Building/Roads	
2	Volex	Electronics	
3	Widling Office	Drugs/Stores	
4	Wintrest	Bank/Insurance	
5	Western Selection	Electronics	
6	Whitman Retail	Industrials S-Z	
7	Clark (Matthew)	Breweries	
8	Centenary Ind	Industrials A-D	
9	Holms	Industrials E-K	
10	Scars (as)	Drugs/Stores	
11	Wiggins	Building/Roads	
12	Booth Inds	Industrials A-D	
13	Boony & Hawes	Leisure	
14	Regalind	Property	
15	Cresins	Property	
16	Pil Fyffe	Food	
17	Yellowhammer	Paper/Print/Adv	
18	Brent Walker	Leisure	
19	Vibromat	Building/Roads	
20	Memo	Electronics	
21	Ren Bros	Bank/Insurance	
22	Apples Hidge	Food	
23	Monsey	Industrials L-R	
24	Skelly	Industrials S-Z	
25	DAKS Simpson 'A'	Drugs/Stores	
26	Am Oil & Gas	Oil/Gas	
27	Bitco (P)	Property	
28	Office Elect Mach	Industrials L-R	
29	Centex 'A'	Drugs/Stores	
30	More Crystal	Paper/Print/Adv	
31	Bellind	Building/Roads	
32	Devenish (JA)	Property	
33	Sedfield Spelman	Chemicals/Plas	
34	Johnston Press	Paper/Print/Adv	
35	Gieves	Industrials E-K	
36	Lon Scot Bk	Bank/Insurance	
37	Lykes (S)	Textiles	
38	Vau Group	Breweries	
39	Cape Ind	Industrials A-D	
40	Simon Eng	Industrials S-Z	
41	Sidlaw	Industrials E-K	
42	Bratne Hse	Industrials E-K	
43	Witson (Conolly)	Building/Roads	
44	Presac	Electronics	

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

UNDATED

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

INDEX-LINKED

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

ELECTRICALS

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Slide continues

مركز المال

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began August 1. Dealings end August 12. Settlement day August 15. Settlement day August 22. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.

(VOLUMES: PAGE 22)

BREWERIES

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

BUILDING, ROADS

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

FINANCE, LAND

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

FOODS

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
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100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
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100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
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100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
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100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00	0.00		
100%	100.00	100.00	Trust	100.00			

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Starting index compared with 1975 was up at 76.7 (range 76.7-76.9).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES. **OTHER STERLING RATES**

Market rates for August 10	Close	1 month	3 month
New York	1.0855-1.0860	1.0880-1.0890	1.09-1.10
London	2.0473-2.0478	2.05-2.0510	2.05-2.0510
Amsterdam	3.6495-3.6527	3.6495-3.6527	3.6495-3.6527
Brussels	67.55-67.57	67.55-67.57	67.55-67.57
Frankfurt	12.30-12.31	12.30-12.31	12.30-12.31
Dublin	1.1891-1.2048	1.2011-1.2029	1.2011-1.2029
Paris	3.2378-3.2466	3.2378-3.2466	3.2378-3.2466
Madrid	211.83-212.95	211.83-212.95	211.83-212.95
Milan	2387.05-2395.71	2387.05-2395.71	2387.05-2395.71
Rome	11.7340-11.7345	11.7340-11.7345	11.7340-11.7345
Stockholm	10.9204-10.9381	10.9405-10.9581	10.9405-10.9581
Oslo	11.0515-11.0612	11.0515-11.0612	11.0515-11.0612
London	2.7025-2.7138	2.7033-2.7086	2.7033-2.7086

Premiums as % Discount = 0.0.

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London market rates for August 10

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

John Hurrell looks at a concept which has become increasingly prevalent in business schools

Though the term risk management was coined many years ago, it is only recently that we have seen its widespread application in Britain. The concept originated in Europe but like so many other management sciences the theory and phraseology developed in the United States. And, so far, risk management thinking is still more advanced across the Atlantic.

Risk managers are now a well-established professional body, generally being members of Airmic, the Association of Insurance and Risk Managers in Industry and Commerce. The association has recently been instrumental in the formation of the Institute of Risk Management dedicated to the study of this subject.

Some would describe risk management as that which enlightens management would undertake without insurance. Certainly a company embracing sound commitment to the risk-management philosophy considers insurance a long stop — a weapon of the last resort — and instead asks questions such as does insurance really insulate my future completely from the effects of a catastrophe or are there any residual losses which insurance does not cover?

What else can the company do about the risk instead of, or in addition to, buying insurance?

One could argue the risk-management philosophy is nothing new. Companies have been practising preventive medicine for years.

Face the risks and still keep smiling



John Hurrell, left, is director of Sedgwick UK (London) Limited, part of the Sedgwick Group, which deals in insurance broking and risk management

Risk management merely brings together various functions which have previously been handled separately. But the whole is greater than the sum of the parts and a risk manager can co-ordinate and foster a total approach towards risk throughout the company.

The risk management approach embodies several stages. Potential risks need to be identified and a risk profile of the company produced. Each risk situation is then reviewed to see how it can be managed.

The company will seek to insure potentially catastrophic risks either in the open market or possibly using its own insurance subsidiary protected by suitable reinsurance.

At the same time, the risks will be assessed to determine if they can be controlled cost-effectively, reduced or even eliminated. This might range from training staff in fire awareness or hazard spotting to designing cost-effective fire en-

gineering facilities. It might also involve sending sales executives on "skilful driving courses" or ensuring regular health check-ups for staff and hearing tests for factory-floor workers in noisy environments.

Fundamental to risk management is that risks are constantly changing. Under the 1987 Consumer Protection Act, for example, any injured person is able to claim damages against a manufacturer without proving negligence. This will expand the legal risks business

faces but at the same time, should heighten interest in product liability risk management — better design standards, packaging and labelling — to minimise risk exposures.

Some companies are actively embracing an aggressive risk-management programme. Vickers has developed an effective programme throughout their 50 locations. Vickers' products range through Rolls-Royce and Bentley motor cars, lithographic plates, armoured fighting vehicles, medi-

cal and scientific equipment and marine engineering.

As John Smith, general manager, risk and insurance, comments: "The great difficulty with risk management is that you cannot actually prove how successful it is. Before and after comparisons are impossible because risks are constantly changing. One can only present the benefits of the protection if it isn't implemented — you may have a fire or you may not. At Vickers, fire-awareness training, for example, is regarded not

just a function of the safety officer but as part of managing the business. Accordingly, executives throughout the company attend fire-awareness courses.

"A fire at the Rolls-Royce motor cars factory in Crewe, or one of its main component suppliers, could be catastrophic," Mr Smith says. "Insurance is not the full answer. You cannot insure for permanent loss of market or the uphill struggle to recover your former position."

This philosophy echoes what is known as the "iceberg principle". This holds that an insurance claim typically represents no more than a quarter of actual loss suffered. If a salesman has a car accident, for example, the insurance money to cover repairs is only part of the cost of the accident. The overhead wastage while that employee is a non-producer, the cost of providing alternative transport and even skilful driving training all have to be built into the operation.

Integral to any risk-management programme is a fully documented contingency plan. This outlines formally how to minimise the impact of an unforeseen event and thereby preventing a crisis from becoming a disaster. Says Mr Smith: "Up to half of those companies which suffer a major fire loss never fully recover. It is the intention of contingency planning at Vickers that no operating unit suffer that fate."

Contingency planning extends even to drawing up a public-relations plan for disaster. This embraces such issues as who should be the spokesperson and are they trained to respond to the media? Do they have the background facts and figures to ensure positive and accurate reporting of the incident and its consequences?

But fundamentally to the success of a risk management programme is that the spirit be embraced by the whole company. At Vickers, for instance, it would have been impossible to obtain the commitment from the rest of the firm without the support from the chief executive, Sir David Plastow, and his board, who have actively endorsed the programme and are responsible for its implementation.

Risk management is not an abstract nor is it a glorified term for insurance administration. It is a management science which can have a substantial impact on a company, be they large multinationals or small businesses.

A BRIEF DEFINITION OF RISK MANAGEMENT

Why should senior management be concerned with risk management? It can be defined as the management of insurable risks, i.e. "pure" risks such as fire, theft, floods and workplace accidents as opposed to "commercial" risks such as over-estimation of the market or changing consumer tastes.

In today's complex businesses, however, all risks

have commercial ramifications. Controlling the total cost of these risks has become an important aspect of management.

So risk management can probably best be described as the systematic anticipation, prevention and treatment of any risk which threatens the people, property and profit performance of a company.

APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481

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Look forward to the future with Croydon

We have already re-organised the Revenues Division in preparation for the Community Charge and moved the Rates Section into larger accommodation. The Community Charge Project Officer and seven other full time Community Charge Staff have now been appointed. Our Computer User Requirements Specification was completed in May and we will be adopting a modern on-line package solution to meet these requirements.

As a result of the re-organisation we now need to recruit senior staff to ensure that we can meet the challenge of 1990.

Assistant Collection Manager (2 Posts)

P03/4 £15,417 - £17,943 and subsidised lease car.

Reporting to the Collection Manager, you will be responsible for the collection of Rates and Community Charges for half the Borough up to the Summons stage. To assist you in this, your staff will be divided into teams, each led by a

Principal Officer. You will also be expected to play an active role in planning for 1990 and must have a thorough working knowledge of rating law and practice.

Recovery Manager P03

£15,417 - £16,713

and subsidised lease car.

Reporting directly to the Local Taxation Manager, you will be responsible for the efficient recovery of Rates and Community Charges after legal proceedings have commenced. You will be expected to play a leading role in planning new recovery procedures for 1990 and must have a thorough working knowledge of rating law and practice.

Revenue Control Officer S02

£13,224 - £13,965

You will be responsible for the operation of the Revenue Control Section which ensures that all income received is correctly recorded and allocated. You must be able to assist the Revenue Manager in introducing the changes required to deal with the increased volumes of payments which will be generated by Community Charge. A knowledge of normal banking procedures is required and experience of Philips cash receipting equipment would be an advantage.

Control and Training Assistant S01

£12,114 - £12,867

You will assist the Control and Training Officer in the training of all staff concerned with Community Charge, Non-Domestic Rating, Cash Receipting and Financial Administration. You will also liaise with Computer Operations, as necessary, to ensure the smooth running of

the Rating and Community Charge systems. A working knowledge of rating law and practice combined with an aptitude for computer work are essential. Experience in using the present ICL-Rates system, Quermaster and Word Processing would be advantageous.

The benefits of working for Croydon include:-

- Generous re-location package
- BUPA discount
- Flexible working hours
- Up to 27 days annual leave
- Subsidised staff restaurants
- Leased car scheme for posts graded PO1 and above.

For an informal discussion about the collection, recovery or training posts, please phone Gordon Heath, Local Taxation Manager, on 01-686 4433 ext. 2564. If you wish to know more about the Revenue Control Officer's post, please telephone Colin Lamb, Revenue Manager on 01-686 4433 ext. 2863.

Application forms can be obtained by telephoning 01-760 5661 (24 hour answer phone) and must be returned to the Director of Finance, London Borough of Croydon, Municipal Offices, Fell Road, Croydon CR9 1BD, by 2nd September.

CROYDON
An equal opportunity employer

SRL EXECUTIVE

HUMAN RESOURCES

MAKE RECRUITMENT YOUR BUSINESS

As a member of one of the world's largest personnel services organisations, our reputation is built on providing the highest possible service to clients.

Maintaining that reputation depends on individual attention to the complex process of human resourcing. Sustained growth and expansion have created the need for an additional individual capable of matching the exacting standards for which we at SRL are renowned.

Although experience in recruitment consultancy is not essential, a critical appreciation of the process is a pre-requisite. You will need a high quality approach to solving difficult recruitment problems across a wide range of management and specialist functions.

Working within a team, success will depend on your own ambition in a demanding but highly satisfying environment. A keen business sense combined with excellent communication skills, you will relish the opportunity to develop your own client portfolio.

The rewards and benefits are impressive and will be negotiable according to your seniority and ability.

Please contact, in complete confidence, KETH SCOTT on 01-993 6610 or write to him at SRL Executive, Challenger House, Gunnersbury Lane, London W3 6LH (Ref: M1065).

CAREERS IN UNDERWRITING

EUROPEAN LANGUAGES
CITY

The Through Transport Club is the world's largest and most experienced insurer of the container and unit load industry. Its continuing growth leads to a requirement in London for underwriters who will join area teams specialising in either the European or South American markets.

As an area underwriter your responsibilities will include extensive liaison with brokers and clients with the object of servicing existing accounts and generating new business. You will be expected to acquire substantial knowledge of the relevant overseas business environment together with an understanding of insurance and the transport industry. A significant amount of overseas travel will be required.

You must offer:-

- education to degree level preferably in a business related discipline
- fluency in Italian or Spanish
- negotiating and presentational skills
- commercial flair combined with numeracy and, if possible, computer literacy.

Full training will be given and career prospects are excellent.

If you are in the age range 24-28, have experience of, or an interest in, the transport sector and wish to be associated with a prestigious and expanding business please send full education and career details to:-

Richard Scambler, Personnel Director,
THOMAS MILLER & CO.
International House, 26 Creech Lane, London EC3A 5BA.
Telephone: 01-263 4646.

GENUINE OPPORTUNITIES FOR A SALES CAREER

Cornhill Publications are leading international publishers of prestige business books. This year we shall be launching a further six major international titles dealing with finance, business and technology.

We are looking for men and women who are genuinely interested in either commencing or continuing a career in Advertising sales with a first class Publishing Company.

You will probably be between 22-35 with some sales experience, although that may not be necessary. Above all you must have drive, personality and absolute determination to succeed. Our commission structure is designed to create realistic earnings of between £22-£45K per annum.

If you are ambitious and have the confidence to present at the most senior level then call Chris Humphreys or Julien Wildman on 240 1515.

ACCOUNTANT - c£21K + car Lime Street, EC3

Expansion through new business acquisitions enables St. Paul Management Limited to recruit an accountant to manage the teams involved in insurance accounts and credit control.

Including inwards and outwards reinsurance, this position will also involve the control of insolvent and rehabilitated companies.

This opportunity will interest established accountants who are seeking to build on existing man-management experience and play a significant role in the company's accountancy team.

Company benefits include a non-contributory pension scheme and health cover, LVs and profit sharing (after qualifying service).

If you are interested in this challenging position please send full CV with salary to date to:

The Personnel Manager
St Paul Management Ltd,
Forum House
15-18 Lime Street
London EC3M 7AP

St Paul

Licensing Executive £14,000 plus exc benefits

Enthusiastic high achiever sought by immensely successful international TV company. Your brief is to increase licensing revenue from world markets. You'll be preparing Sales and Marketing materials for presentations; co-ordinating European agents overseeing product development and packaging. Experience gained in a performance sales environment and a knowledge of consumer products, retailing and point-of-sale essential. Mobility to travel and fluency in two European languages vital. Age 22+.

Call 01-400 1232.

THE WORK SHOP

SYSTEMS ENGINEERS AND CONSULTANTS

SCOPEC are a leading Project Management and Systems Development consultancy employing over 70 professional staff operating from London, Aberdeen, Middlesbrough and Oslo on behalf of clients of international standing in a wide variety of market sectors.

Due to continuing success, we are seeking to recruit four experienced systems engineers and consultants to expand our London operation.

Suitable applicants must have not less than two years experience in systems development using ARTEMIS, AS or Cræsta. Knowledge of other project planning software packages would be a distinct advantage.

Applicants who are looking for good long term career prospects with an attractive benefits package should forward career details to our London office.

SCOPEC
PROJECT AND SYSTEMS CONSULTANTS

Martin Branton, SCOPEC Ltd,
Suite 4A, 75 High Street,
Chislehurst, KENT, BR7 4AG.

01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

REGIONAL SALES
ENGINEER

£15,500 - £18,750 Basic + £2,000 Bonus
+ Carlton 2.0 Litre + Pension Scheme +
All Business Expenses

Develop a range of precision mechanical components to both the distributors and the original equipment manufacturers for a highly successful division of a major British group.

Technical specialists will give you full support and back up to prepare technical quotes, so an engineering background would be an advantage, but your commercial awareness will be the key to your success.

Following an intensive three month induction programme the rapid growth of this company is creating early prospects for promotion to sales management.

ACCOUNT SALES
EXECUTIVE

£10,408 Basic + Commission to Give
£15,000+ + 1.6 Cavalier + Non Contributory
Pension + Large Company Benefits

In order to maintain their position as UK market leader, this major PLC is now in the position to recruit a sales executive.

Your role will be to promote their range of products throughout an already lucrative distributor network. Ideally aged between 25-45, you will be joining a progressive company who offer excellent, whilst realistic career opportunities. Regular monthly incentive schemes will serve to boost your first year's earnings package of £15,000+.

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NORTH/MIDLANDS Martin Hamilton (021) 454 8919 CENTRAL Chris Hassall (0604) 37181 SOUTH Mike Hayes (0272) 273333

OFFICES IN: Birmingham, Bristol, Crayley, Manchester, Northampton, Nottingham, Slough, Swindon, Watford.

YOUNG SALES
ENGINEER

£14,000 Basic + Bonus + BUPA +
Excellent Benefits + Sierra Ghia

This fast growing division of a top international corporation have bulldozed their way into an exciting and rapidly expanding market with a highly effective combination of massive advertising and competitive pricing. As a result their product range is now highly sought after.

They now require an additional engineer who can keep pace with an ambitious training plan designed to ensure rapid progression through the company.

THE NATIONAL
TRUST

for Places of Historic Interest
or Natural Beauty

HISTORIC BUILDINGS
REPRESENTATIVE

The National Trust, which has more than 1.5 million members, is Britain's largest conservation charity. It looks after more than 450 miles of coastline, half a million acres of spectacular countryside, 250 historic buildings and 109 gardens throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

We are seeking to appoint an Historic Buildings Representative for our Cornwall Region. Based at the Regional office at Lanhedock the post holder will be responsible for the care and conservation of historic houses, their contents and gardens.

A keen interest in the work of the National Trust is essential. The appointment offers a challenging and demanding opportunity for a graduate, aged 25-45 years, with a good degree in an arts subject or equivalent experience, and wide ranging interests in historic landscapes, the arts, social and architectural history, vernacular buildings and industrial history. A knowledge of Cornwall would be an advantage.

The post involves considerable travelling for which a National Trust car will be provided. Assistance will be given with relocation expenses.

The starting salary will be £15,381 on a scale rising to £20,663 p.a. to reward outstanding achievement, plus a contributory pension scheme.

Please write for further details and application forms, enclosing SAE, to:

Mrs Marlene Poole, Personnel Assistant,
The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate,
London SW1H 9AS.

Closing date: 31 August 1988

SALES PROFESSIONALS
SALES REPRESENTATIVES
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require a further ten of the best sales people to form part of the 1989 expansion plans covering Greater London and Home Counties.

MEET US

on 18th & 19th August 1988, between 10am - 4pm, and we will show you the back-up organisation that will make all the difference to you.

ARE YOU

between 23-37 with enthusiasm, not afraid of hard work and determined to succeed in a family business which is dedicated to excellence.

JOIN US

for our next Sales Training programme which starts in September whether you know the office supplies market or have selling experience.



If you are unable to meet us at the times stated please send a detailed C.V. with passport size photograph and we will arrange to meet with you by appointment.

DUDLEY
moves stationery fast

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Account Manager

Young dynamic Marketing Services Company, ext. degree level with several years direct Marketing exp. - Responsible for a small team - computer literacy an asset. Age 25-35. Salary 18K + Car. Essex based.

Production Manager

Required for an electronics manufacturing Co. - Exp. planning, man-management, materials control, assembly, test, spares and repairs. Salary to £18,000 + car. - Essex.

Software Engineers

Degree level - required for Defence, Medical, general Manufacturing Companies throughout Essex, Cambridgeshire. Experience, embedded real-time micro-processor systems development. Lang: C, PASCAL, FORTRAN, Modular 2. Salary £20,000.

Newly Qualified Accountant

CIMA - to produce monthly, quarterly and annual accounts - Manufacturing company - Essex based. £20,000.

These are just a selection of our current vacancies. For details of these plus many more, please contact us on (0376) 520919 or write to 5, Colingwood Road, Witham, Essex CM8 2DY.

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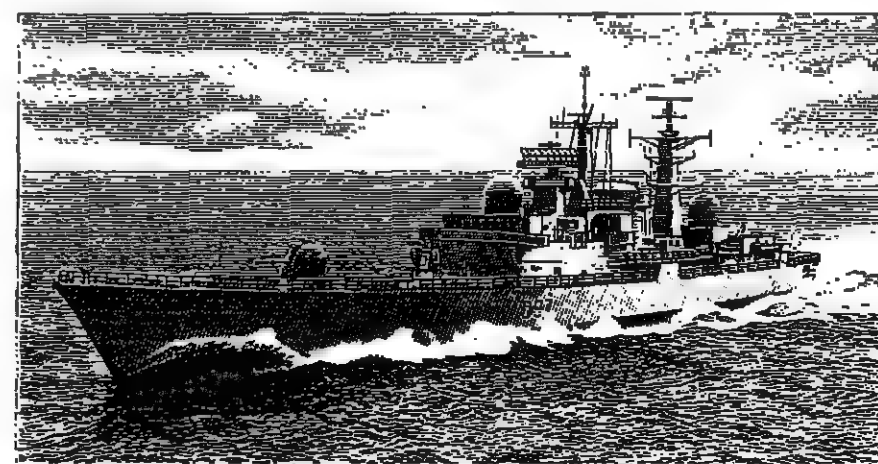
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HORIZONS

Beryl Dixon reports on the Industrial Society's initiative to forge a vital link between industry and education

Schools meet challenge

We are accustomed these days to hearing of the need to build stronger links between industry and education. Indeed, Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, said last month at an Industry Matters conference that the two sectors must work more closely together if they are to meet the challenge of the single European market and the declining numbers of young people.

Such links are increasing. Yet in a survey conducted among 15-year-olds, who were asked to rate 22 careers in descending order of interest, industry came halfway down the list, well below accountancy, law and civil aviation. Industry still does not have an attractive image.

One initiative which has been in existence for some years is the Challenge of Industry conference, held in schools for sixth-formers and pioneered by the Industrial Society. The chances are that busy personnel and training managers will sooner or later receive a phone call, either from one of the society's campaigners, or direct from a teacher, requesting help at one of these events.

What are they, and why should companies consider committing themselves to taking part?

Conferences are run over one or two days, and are designed, says the society, "to provide opportunities for students to learn about and sample the challenges of



Conferences are meant to be fun as well as instructive
Sixth-formers taking part in a Challenge of Industry conference

managing and representing people at work."

Originally, the conferences were held in the independent schools, largely because of the expense. Thanks to sponsorship from industry, they are now organized in about 200 state schools every year.

Such schools pay a proportion of the cost. In addition, schools which have had a conference run by the Industrial Society may buy a DIY manual and run their own in subsequent years. It is the latter group of schools that are likely to make their own requests to local employers.

At each conference, talks are given by a manager and a trades union representative on their respective roles, highlighting the satisfactions and the problems. But the leading part of a conference is devoted to group work. Students, mainly those on A-level or equivalent courses, are divided into groups of 10 or 12.

Advised, rather than led, by group advisers, who are managers from industry or commerce, the groups work their way through a series of decision-making tasks, discussion exercises and team projects, not unlike those encour-

tered by managers sent by their own companies to attend courses at management centres.

Experience shows the group work approach is effective. Reaction from students is that most find the experience useful and enjoyable. "Conferences are meant to be fun, too," says the society. Some students revise their views on industry. Others, of course, do not, but the majority say that they have benefited in some way, whether in finding out about industry, or in learning to solve problems or to communicate more effectively.

What do companies gain from the Challenge of Industry conferences linking schools with industry? Most of the large companies that regularly provide group advisers give two main reasons for their continuing support.

First, they say, it provides a unique opportunity to get across to young people — face to face, and in small groups rather than in a formal lecture — something of what industry is about.

Tony Rolph, of Monsanto, says: "We need to improve the image of industry held by the average 17-year-old. We would like to dispel some of the myths and take away the fears of the old smoke-filled factories; showing them the satisfactions and challenges of industry today."

Mr Rolph attends conferences himself and finds them enjoyable. "They are personally invigorating, and it is encouraging to see the talent these youngsters can display, and the way they tackle problems."

This view is echoed by Brian Kynn, training and development manager of British Gas, North Thames division, who says: "Our senior managers have found their faith in young people renewed."

IBM, which supplies 250 group advisers every year, speaks of the valuable opportunity to get the young people's impressions on industry in an informal setting, and, if possible, to change them.

"We hope our group advisers can get across something of what management skills are all about, whether concerned with completing a task, or managing people."

There are obvious benefits to companies which may succeed in

Industry harvests talent

Brian Kynn, right, of British Gas: "Renewed faith in young people"



attracting these young people. With the declining population in their age group in their favour for getting jobs, they are at a premium. They should be persuaded to think again about joining industry and commerce, whether it is straight from school, or after higher education.

The second reason given by smaller companies should think of the potential benefits

most companies for their participation is that they see these conferences as a part of the training and development of their own managers. Many deliberately send their younger managers.

British Gas says: "Our staff not only give, but get fresh ways of looking at complex issues and problems."

The Midland Bank says: "Both sides gain. We provide the time and expertise to help the schools. For this, we naturally get our name known among sixth-formers."

"Our managers gain, too. They

meet advisers from other companies. The case studies and problems designed for the youngsters show them the decisions managers in manufacturing companies have to take that are not purely financial.

"They appreciate some of the problems faced by client firms which approach bank managers for financial help. Also, the younger managers develop leadership skills by seeing how a group performs from the outside. It adds a dimension they do not themselves get as group members on courses."

These companies are all obviously enthusiastic supporters of Challenge of Industry conferences. They are also big organizations, but as one spokesman says, smaller companies, if asked to participate, should not look in horror at the time and expense involved, but think instead of the potential benefits. IBM, for example, is happy to talk to such companies.

In the words of Tony Rolph: "It's time well-spent, despite the cost, and something we have to do — or face the consequences."

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Breeding ground for Test rivals

There are those who regard overseas players as the saviours of English cricket. There are others who hold them responsible for most of the ills afflicting the game. Somewhere between these two extremes lies the truth — the fact that the imported stars had their uses but that now, perhaps, they have become redundant if not directly damaging.

The point of introducing foreign players to England's domestic game was initially to inject star appeal, to tempt spectators back to an ailing public entertainment. One-day cricket was under way and most counties were attracted by the idea of a big-name player who would not only set the turnstiles clicking but might easily bring them hope of a trophy.

There were disappointments — even the incomparable Gary Sobers did not transform Nottinghamshire into a successful or particularly prosperous club — but certain counties discovered beneficial offshoots, largely in the educational merit of having the right sort of Test star among their home-grown youngsters.

The system began to lose its purpose when some clubs, doubting the value of the famous names appearing on rivals' team sheets, became so determined to have an overseas player in their midst that they scoured the world in search. When they failed to find a genuine star, a first division player, they settled for mediocrity. So long as he is not English he will do, seemed to be the baffling logic from some areas of the country.

And then the problems multiplied. With no restrictions on registration, clubs signed two and then three overseas players; it had gone beyond being a quest for something different and become a dangerous obsession. Clubs began to base their playing policies on the foreigners, to pin their hopes on them. English players on county staff became no more than extras, bit-part actors who were expected to provide only the punctuation for the prose of the glamorous imports.

David Graveney began his Gloucestershire career in just such an environment. Now, reflecting on his role as club captain, he appreciates its effects. "We had three overseas players in the side — Procter, Zahoor and Sadiq. They won games for us but the other players, the Englishmen, tended to stroll through them, always looking to the stars for the big performances. When they were no longer around,



**CRICKET:
TIME FOR
CHANGE**

The role of the overseas player will come under close scrutiny when the Test and County Cricket Board considers the decline in English cricket at its meeting tomorrow.

In the second of a three-part series, Alan Lee assesses the arguments for and against, and analyses the counties' recruiting methods

some of those who were left found they could not raise their game." Something similar has happened to Hampshire this season but, interestingly, they have responded in a different way. Without their enduring West Indians, Gordon Greenidge and Malcolm Marshall, they have won one knock-out trophy for the first time and reached the semi-final of the other.

Their captain, Mark Nicholas, explains: "It is certainly true that because we have not been able to rely on them, others in the team have reacted by playing to their full capability. Instead of being in the shadows, we have succeeded because we have had no stars, just a team."

Graveney, who has been in the game since the early Seventies, is in a good position to assess the role of the imports over the years. He says: "They did save or at least revitalise the game. They improved the quality and gave it more spectator appeal. We are, after all, in an entertainment business."

"But two is too many and three is ridiculous. Each county should be permitted to register only one, unless that player is subsequently chosen for a tour. We still employ accounts are healthy and matches are being won, there are plenty unwilling to indulge in critical self-appraisal.

This is not to say that all counties are negligent in the pursuit of playing excellence. Micky Stewart himself, while manager of Surrey, set up the most extensive network of age-group cricket. At Lancashire, where a renaissance is under way, the coach, Alan Ornrod, has achieved something comparable.

He reports: "I have not noticed any dropping-off of talent at grassroots level and we have a lot of good coaches operating round the county. The problem is getting them to come into the game and develop. So many players look world-beaters at 16, then level off at 19 and make no further progress. They have to be handled right and allowed to learn their trade."

Ornrod's example, from his own staff, is Michael Atherton, aged 20, the captain of Cambridge University. At the end of the university fixtures, Atherton had a first-class

two but every county will do that as the rules stand. The regulations must be toughened so that the dominant influence exerted by the overseas players is relaxed."

Neil Lenham is our example of a young county player who has seen domestic cricket only as it is now. His view is revealing: "The overseas players can be a help to others on the staff but in most ways I see them as a hindrance. They are taking vital roles in the team and to have two or three on a staff means using up a great deal of money — enough to recruit about six youngsters. Those youngsters may not initially win the club any games but some of them could turn out to be very good players if given the opportunity."

Lenham, along with a lot of others of his generation, would not mourn the passing of the overseas player. Neither would the England team manager, Micky Stewart. His personal view is that the imports do nothing to benefit the development of English game and too much to aid the progress of other countries. He speaks graphically of the system providing a "finishing school" for the future leaders of rival Test teams. He undoubtedly has a point.

Even Imran Khan, who has been among the most successful of overseas players, has gone on record with the opinion that West Indies and his native Pakistan benefit far more than England from the existing system.

Ravi Shastri, Glamorgan's overseas player and the captain of India, gives another insight: "Attitude is very important. It is not just a matter of batting and bowling. I will always try to help any of the second-team cricketers as much as possible. I think it is part of my job. I would love to have overseas players in India because it does give the youngsters the chance to play with and against the best in the world. The Indians are great imitators and when they see top players in action, they want to imitate them."

There is no question that counties who recruit sensibly still reap the benefits of the system.

When the Test and County Cricket Board reaches its verdict on the place of the overseas player, it will not satisfy everyone. The likeliest outcome, however, is possibly the most logical: a tightening of the regulations rather than a dramatic clear-out. One per county should mean one registration per county, not the cynical rota system being operated at various clubs to the plain detriment of home-bred talent.

average of 60 but when he returned to Old Trafford, Ornrod declined to pick him. It caused a storm among members but the coach defends his decision: "He doesn't want to be rushed and I don't want to rush him. I don't want any stupid talk about him playing for England until I think he is ready."

The big danger is that he might get disillusioned with the game because he hasn't done his apprenticeship and is finding the going tougher than he expected. It is hard for youngsters to adjust to playing both one-day and three-day cricket. Once he goes through a bad patch, he will be better able to cope. Richard Blakey, at Yorkshire, was last season's Young Cricketer of the Year but now he does not know whether he is coming or going. You have to be patient with youngsters and stick with them."

Ornrod's is the traditional English method of bringing on players slowly so that they peak in their



Shastri: India captain who regards helping out with second-team players as part of his responsibility with Glamorgan

Four-timer whets Eddery's appetite for double century

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

Pat Eddery's relentless determination to become the first man to ride 200 winners in a season since Sir Gordon Richards in 1952 received fresh impetus yesterday when the champion jockey-elect landed a 1.57.2-1 four-timer at Salisbury.

"I'm really going for it," the five-times champion said. "If everything goes right, I've got a great chance. It's something I really want to do and if necessary I don't mind finishing up today's firm going." said Neil Graham, Eddery's assistant, who added that both Unifawn and Edinburg just like I did in my battle with Steve Cauthen last year.

The bare facts are that Eddery has now ridden 127 winners. Four months of the season have gone and there are 75 racing days left with 73 winners needed before the curtain falls at Doncaster on November 5.

The odds are in favour of Eddery fulfilling his ambition. But evening racing finishes at the end of August and with no challenge appearing, the 36-year-old Irish-born rider may find the going tough as the season gets even more competitive and the opportunities fewer. However, Richards accomplished the feat no less than 12 times and in Eddery's epic fight with Cauthen last year he rode 195 winners to the champion's 197.

Eddery's first success came on Titchwell in the first division of the Horton Building Group Stakes. Carrying the maroon and white colours of the Holliday family made famous by such champions as Hethersett and Vaguely Noble, the 12-1 outsider resisted the late attack of Tormopolis to win by a fast-diminishing short head.

Titchwell is trained by James Bethell at Didcot for his brother-in-law, Brook Holliday. "I've only got three more now," said the owner. "I sold 14 to the Aga Khan last year including Bird Reserve, Titchwell's dam."

with the stable, won the Grand Prix de Paris on Fajar Tango and the Grand Prix d'Evry on Something True. He is expected to take a second retainer with another stable.

The contract is for one year only but both Fustok and his trainer said yesterday that they hoped it would be extended.

Cruz was in action at Deauville yesterday on Paul Kelleway's Villandrado, who finished with lengths fifth to Star Touch, trained by French owner Boulin, in the £14,000 Prix des Yearlings Syndicat Zino (7/2).

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GOLF

Ballesteros to lead European attack on a US stronghold

From Mitchell Platt, Golf Correspondent, Edmond, Oklahoma

Not even the absence of Sandy Lyle can dilute the fear among the Americans that the seventh US PGA Championship, which begins here today on the Oak Tree Course, will for the first time fall into the hands of European golf.

Severian Ballesteros is the favourite and with Ken Brown, Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer and Ian Woosnam also competing, there is a real possibility that the American dominance of this championship, broken since the war only by the South African, Gary Player, and the Australian, David Graham, will be challenged.

Even a sudden change in the weather, with a series of thunderstorms clearing the air, have rescued the European challengers from the prospect of playing in temperatures in excess of 100°F, although the humidity is expected to rise again into the 90s.

Yet the story of the major championships this year is one of European superiority, even if Faldo did lose the US Open in a play-off to Curtis Strange. Either side of that valiant effort came the victory by Lyle at Augusta and the success of Ballesteros in the Open Championship.

The Americans are mystified by Lyle's decision not to compete, which I understand may have something to do with the fact that his sister is getting married on Saturday.

Even so, it would appear that Lyle indicated to her several months ago that she could pencil that date into the diary.

Jack Nicklaus, who is attempting at the age of 48 and seven months to become the oldest winner of this championship, said: "I can't believe Sandy is not here. But he's always kind of lived his own life and done his own deal."

"Greg Norman insisted: 'Sandy must definitely be playing. I simply cannot comprehend why he should

the result until four days after the Open finished. The trouble was that I started dreaming about golf which is something I've never done before."

Norman believes that following a week of practice assisted by Phil Rodgers, who has often coached Nicklaus, that he can win a championship which was cruelly taken away from him in 1986 when Bob Tway holed a bunker shot at the 18th.

To do so would require a supreme achievement and Nicklaus, who often suggests that the Australian is the man to beat, has on this occasion opted to side with Ballesteros. "I think that this course is made for Seve," Nicklaus said.

Meanwhile, Ballesteros, apart from suggesting the championship be moved to May, is calling for a referendum amongst the players and sponsors to seek a reduction from 15 to 12 on the number of tournaments in which a player must compete to retain his playing privileges on the US Tour.

The only way that is likely to happen is if Deane Beman, the commissioner for the tour, gives his approval. Ballesteros will be better concentrating on winning this championship. It will not be easy with players like Paul Azinger, Fred Couples, Larry Wadkins, David Frost and Mark McNulty challenging him.

Card of course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	441	4	10	379	4
2	584	5	11	468	4
3	290	3	12	440	4
4	350	4	13	445	4
5	447	4	14	434	4
6	377	3	15	476	4
7	171	3	16	479	4
8	386	4	17	429	4
9	381	3	18	429	4
Total yardage: 7,015			Par: 71		

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Big guns move in on outsiders

By John Hennessy

The English women's stroke-play championship, sponsored by National Westminster Bank, acquired something like the expected pattern on the second day at Wentworth, but some of the outsiders continued to make their mark.

Sally Prosser, a former Surrey champion, has assumed the lead on 147, one over par; Alison Macdonald, aged 17, from Andover, lies third, on 152, and Katherine Hartridge, followed her harrowing 85 on the first day with a 69, by three shots the best score so far.

But the big guns have made menacing moves from the 77 they shared on the first day. Jill Thornhill, captain of Britain and Ireland for the world championship next month, scored 72 yesterday to advance into second place with two members of her team, Julie Wade, and Susan Shapcott. Wade's 74 puts her in fourth place and Shapcott's 75 gains a share of fifth.

Hartridge, aged 26, has been through hard times in a golfing sense for the last two years and, with her game in a better shape, recently the loss of confidence had seriously affected her play on Tuesday.

Yesterday everything changed, she said, with the acquisition of a knowledgeable caddy, Keith Maplesden, of the Liphook Club. Her confidence returned and, with it, the lowest score she has ever produced.

Prosser was round in 74 in spite of taking three putts four times. Her five-wood served her well with birds at three long holes, but it betrayed her with a hook off the 18th fairway. Thanks to the good guidance of her caddy, she was able to negotiate an overhanging tree and save her par.

Thornhill finished spectacularly by holing a bunker shot for an eagle three at the last. Her 72 yesterday was two shots more than her round over the East Course when winning the tournament earlier in the season. But the championship course, employing many of the men's tees, is over 500 yards longer.

The highlight of MacDonald's round was an eagle three at the 139 yards eighth by way of a drive, six-iron and 18 feet putt.

LEADING SCORES: 147: S Prosser (Wentworth), 73: 74: Alison Macdonald (Andover), 75: 76: 152: Julie Wade (Wentworth), 77: 78: 158: Susan Shapcott (Wentworth), 79: 79: 160: Katherine Hartridge (Wentworth), 80: 80: 162: Jill Thornhill (Wentworth), 81: 81: 164: Julie Wade (Wentworth), 82: 82: 166: Susan Shapcott (Wentworth), 83: 83: 168: Katherine Hartridge (Wentworth), 84: 84: 170: Jill Thornhill (Wentworth), 85: 85: 172: Julie Wade (Wentworth), 86: 86: 174: Susan Shapcott (Wentworth), 87: 87: 176: Katherine Hartridge (Wentworth), 88: 88: 178: Jill Thornhill (Wentworth), 89: 89: 180: Julie Wade (Wentworth), 90: 90: 182: Susan Shapcott (Wentworth), 91: 91: 184: Katherine Hartridge (Wentworth), 92: 92: 186: Jill Thornhill (Wentworth), 93: 93: 188: Julie Wade (Wentworth), 94: 94: 190: Susan Shapcott (Wentworth), 95: 95: 192: Katherine Hartridge (Wentworth), 96: 96: 194: Jill Thornhill (Wentworth), 97: 97: 196: Julie Wade (Wentworth), 98: 98: 198: Susan Shapcott (Wentworth), 99: 99: 200: 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